

Threshers Chaff

Midwest Old Threshers Association
Mount Pleasant, Iowa

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Winter 2019

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS BOAST 125 DISPLAYS, RECORD CROWDS

The Mt. Pleasant Festival of Lights is pretty impressive this year. More than 120 displays cover most of the 60-acre campground at Midwest Old Threshers.

So far, there have been cars from 20 different states enter the drive-thru light display.

Thank you to the many volunteers who have put in hundreds of hours getting the displays ready, installed and turned on and off every night. Mother Nature has tried her hardest to wreak havoc. High winds the day before Thanksgiving caused a little bit of chaos, however Old Threshers staff and volunteers came to the rescue

and made the necessary repairs.

On November 24th the lights were open to the public to walk through. More than 330 people took advantage of the unseasonably warm weather and got an up-close experience.

On December 19th a limited number of tickets were available for horse-drawn carriage rides, an event that sold out in 24 hours.

Festival of Lights is open every night now until New Year's Eve.

Admission is \$10 per family vehicle, \$25 for a limo, \$30 for mini coach, \$60 for motor coach.

Santa shooting hoops at FOL.



OLD THRESHERS WINS BEST IN SHOW AT HOLIDAY PARADE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| CEO's Message | 2 |
| Featured for 2020 | 3 |
| 2019 Photo Contest | 4 |
| Windmill Dedication | 4 |
| Revive the Reeves | 4 |
| 2019 Reunion Scrapbook | 7 |
| 2019 Volunteer Awards | 10 |

For the second year in a row, Midwest Old Threshers has won the coveted title of Best In Show at the Pleasantville Holiday Parade.

OT board member Paul Bishop and his wife, TJ, brought their Suffolk Punch draft horses and pulled a wagon full of cheer including OT staff, board members and a hayrack with Sweet 16 participants and a huge sack of presents. The Festival of Lights were represented as well.



'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through Old Threshers
Not a steam engine, train, trolley or tractor was stirring;
The stockings were hung by the boilers with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas would fill them with COAL;

The children of all ages were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of The Old Threshes Reunion danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my bibs;
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,

When out in Tractorland there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But 8 tiny tractors AND A STEAM ENGINE in gear,

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

"Now, JD! Now, IH! Now, OLIVER and ALIS!
On, CASE! on AVERY! on, REEVES and WOODS!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
POPPING AND SPUTTERING, these noises brought proof.
As I drew in my hand, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed RED BIBS, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes — how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a CORN COB pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old FARMER,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, AND BLEW HIS STEAM WHISTLE
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,

“HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT!”

*Thank you all for making
2019 a great year and
2020 is looking just as
bright. From all of us
here at Old Threshers,
Merry Christmas and A
Happy New Year. See you
all September 3-7, 2020!*

Tony McNeill

FEATURED FOR 2020



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



Suffolk Punch



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



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



1932 Chevrolet Cabriolet
Owned by: Robert Bixenman
Wever, IA



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



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

2020 SOUVENIR BUTTONS AVAILABLE ONLINE AND IN GIFT SHOP

The 2020 Midwest Old Threshers Souvenir button is now available online at shop.oldthreshers.com and at the Old Threshers Gift Shop.

Anyone who purchases an Early Bird Multi-day admission gets a souvenir button for free!



2020 30-HOUR VOLUNTEER AWARD FEATURES SALOON GIRLS



The 2020 30-hour volunteer award is here! It features the art of Ann Klingensmith and showcases the Golden Slipper Saloon Girls.

The first volunteers to receive the 2020 award attended the Old Threshers Annual Meeting in November. Pictured at right are, clockwise from bottom left, Steve Tolander, Rebecca Imhoff, Tim Imhoff, Debbie Imhoff, Randy Hall and Kim Shirley.



LIMITED EDITION CASE PRINT FOR SALE

This limited-edition, full-color print of the 110 Case by Gary Smedley is for sale for \$50. Proceeds from the sale will benefit restoration projects of steam engines owned by Midwest Old Threshers. There were only 100 made. Get one while they are still available. Contact Al at the Old Threshers Foundation 319-385-8937.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019 OT PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



1st Place
Kelsey Broadhead



2nd Place
Mandi Morin



3rd Place
Bryan Bechtold

FULLERS DEDICATE WINDMILL AT STEAM HEADQUARTERS

In July of 2016, Rosemary Fuller and Dale Fuller bought a piece of family history at an auction in Columbus City, Iowa. A windmill that once belonged to grandparents Ward and Marie Fuller was up for sale.

The windmill was erected in 1941 by Howard Bell on a farm near Columbus Junction. He and his wife, Alta, had three farms. Howard died suddenly eight years later. Alta sold one of the farms to the Fullers in late 1949. In January of 1950, Ward and Marie moved in.

The windmill watered their Black Angus cattle. Ward was a substitute mail carrier as well as a farmer who did custom baling. Ward died in 1974.

Marie sold the family farm to the Louisa County Conservation Board in 1992. Shortly after the sale, the 262-acre farm became the Chinkapin Bluffs Recreation Area. A windmill was not a part of the plan for the recreation area.

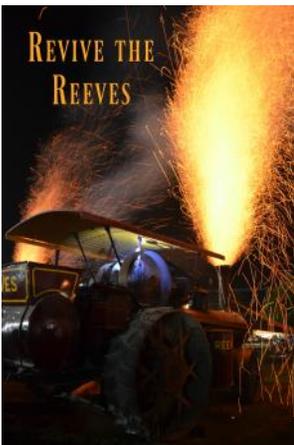
A man named George Bell removed the windmill from the farm. The fan blades and fan tail were riddled with holes from being used for target practice, while the farm house was vacant. George Bell replaced the fan blades and fan tail with new and old stock Aermotor parts that had been part of his father's (Howard Bell) business. George Bell erected the windmill near his home in Columbus City, Iowa.

Jump forward to 2016 and the auction that reunited Rosemary and Dale with a piece of their family's past. The windmill was moved to Mt. Pleasant in August of 2016. It was then donated to Old Threshers and erected on August 2, 2018, in front of the Bob and Penny Gilchrist Traction Steam Headquarters Building.

The Fuller Family held a ribbon cutting in September.



REVIVE THE REEVES PROJECT UPDATE



At the end of the 2018 Reunion, the 32hp Reeves, owned by Midwest Old Threshers, was moved to storage where it was stripped of its gears in early November. The gears were washed and loaded on a trailer for the trip to Anderson Industries in Webster, South Dakota.

The old gears were used to take measurements. From there, computer aided drafting was used to make images of the new gears. Next, molds were made. Some of the gears were shipped to Mt. Pleasant in August with another shipment arriving in December. With one more shipment expected in the near future, volunteers will work to put everything back together as soon as the weather warms up enough to work.

Pictured at right, top, is the old differential spider

assembly. Below is the new one during mold making.



REUNION MARKED BY GOOD WEATHER AND GREAT CROWDS

The 2019 Old Threshers Reunion is in the books. Perfect weather and record crowds made 2019 one of the best Reunions ever.

Reserved seating for all four nights of entertainment sold out. Reserved seats for Friday and Sunday sold out in eight days, another record for 2019. General admission for all the concerts filled the track to the brim.

There were 76 traction steam engines, 158 cars & trucks, 698 gas engines and 993 tractors at the

2019 Reunion.

A total of 1,039 volunteers logged 46,487 hours helping get ready and host more than 36,000 people over the five day event. Thank you to all the volunteers who help make the Old Threshers Reunion a success every year.



2019 MISS SWEET 16 RESULTS

- Miss Sweet 16 - Erin Andreasen, Mt Pleasant
- 1st Runner Up - Elli Liechty, Mt Pleasant
- 2nd Runner Up - Grace Kelly, Mt Pleasant
- Miss Volunteer - Rebecca Imhoff, Muscatine

All 12 of the candidates did an amazing job.

Pictured at right (L to R): Grace Kelly, Rebecca Imhoff, Erin Andreasen, Elli Liechty



GREAT NORTHERN PRINTERS' FAIR

Old Threshers Printers' Hall was host to the Midwest and Great Northern Printers' Fair in September. People from across the country trekked to Mt. Pleasant to share their talents in the print industry as well as learn from others.



2019 MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS REUNION SCRAPBOOK



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THRASHERS HOUSE OF TERROR AND MIDWEST HAUNTED RAILS



The 2019 Midwest Haunted Rails and Thrashers House of Terror enjoyed great weather and attendance. A close inspection of license plates proved that visitors come from near and far to enjoy these spooky, family events.

Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who work tirelessly to get the attractions set up so soon after the Old Thrashers Reunion. Once again, we are able to host thousands of people because of our awesome volunteers!



2019 VOLUNTEER AWARD WINNERS



Front row—L to R: Martha Allen, D. Norman Boshart, Mandy & Matthew Brenner, Jared Buckert, Jeremy Buckert, Dave Dietze, Adam Ficke, Doug Fraise, Tim Imhoff, Bryan Katchay, Rick Kaufman. Back row—L to R: Mark Loftus, Carl & Maribelle Lund, Marc Lutz, Ben Lutz, Todd & Amy Mabeus, Heidi Riepe, Sherry Rila, Brad Sharp, Dan Wistrom.

Martha Allen

Martha Allen, 73, is from Mt. Pleasant. She and husband, Tom Allen have three children and seven grandchildren. Martha was born and raised in Henry County, graduating from Mt. Pleasant High School and Burlington Junior College. Her career was as a para-educator in the Mt. Pleasant Community Schools.

Martha volunteers in the Foundation Office, for school tours, the Bussey Doll Museum, the church tent, pork tent and the carousel. Her parents were very involved and she hasn't missed a Reunion. Martha will always help if needed just call her!

D. Norman Boshart

D. Norman Boshart, 83, of Wayland, IA is married to Ermadine and has four children. He has been a farmer for 50 years.

D. Norman works in Tractor Land and has shown tractors since 1985. He has worked in the tractor area since 1990. He has attended every show 1950-2018 except for 1957.

Matthew and Mandy Brenner

Matthew and Mandy Brenner, are from Wallace, Nebraska. They have two daughters. Matthew was born in Antinino, Kansas, and raised in Hays, Kansas. Mandy was born in North Platte, Nebraska and raised in Wallace, Nebraska. Matthew is a carpenter/contractor by trade and a veteran of the US Navy and is a volunteer with the Wallace Nebraska Fire Department. Mandy is a house wife and is the Wallace School District Concessions Manager.

Matthew volunteers with Steam Headquarters, runs a water wagon, site preparation, traffic control for steam engines, helps in the steam area restrooms and bath/shower house custodian and attendance from 2015-2019. Mandy volunteers in the Steam Headquarters, site preparation, and traffic control for steam engines. She has attended Midwest Old Threshers for 14 years.

Jared Buckert

Jared Buckert, 31, of Nauvoo, Illinois, married his college sweetheart Tori, in 2017. They have two dogs and cat together. Originally from Hamilton, Illinois, Jared enlisted in the United States Marine Corps after high school and used the GI bill to graduate from McPherson College with a BS in automotive restoration, Jared works for a local hardware store, helps his dad farm and runs a small business building custom, farm toys "Looks Like Farm Toys".

Jared has volunteered at Midwest Old Threshers since 1988 except for his military service. The veneer mill, corn shelling, track bench set up and the Threshers Hour of Terror (five years) have enjoyed his time at OT.

Jeremy Buckert

Jeremy Buckert, 28, from Warsaw, IL is the son of Danny and Karen Buckert. He was born in Burlington, Iowa and raised in Hamilton, IL. Jeremy graduated from Hamilton High School in 2009 and Southeastern Community College in 2011. Jeremy is a US Marine Corp Reserve since 2015.

Jeremy has attended OT every year since 1990, volunteering in Tractor Land – numbering tractors and helping with the tractor pull. He has also helped in the Haunted House since 2014.

Dave Dietze

Dave Dietze, 62, of Waverly, Nebraska is married to Jackie. They have two children and two grandchildren. He was born in Lincoln, NE and raised in Waverly, NE. Dave is a plumber and graduated from Waverly High School in 1975. Dave attended his first show in 1978 where he volunteered in the gas engine area setting up the week before and during the show. He has also been at all the spring swap meets and on the swap meet committee.

The Dietze family are charter members of Camp Creek Threshers in Waverly, NE. They just held their 43rd show in July. Many of those members also attend OT and enjoy coming back each year.

Adam Ficke

Adam Ficke (Fike), is 22, from Milford, NE. He is single and was born and raised in Milford. After high school graduation he began working in Agronomy Operations, Dorchester Farmers' Cooperative. Adam enjoys blacksmithing. Adam volunteers with the steam powerhouse and has helped since he was old enough to do so. He works in the Wilke Room since 2013.

Doug Fraise

Doug Fraise, 51, is from Danville, Iowa. He is married to Peggy and they have two

2019 VOLUNTEER AWARDS, CON'T.

adult children with 4 grandkids and another on the way in September. Doug has lived in Danville his whole life and still resides there. He works at Federal-Mogul in Burlington, Iowa as the bargaining chairman for the local UAW 1237. Doug and his wife volunteer in the campground. Doug parks campers and his wife can be found in the Camper Shack.

Tim Imhoff

Tim Imhoff, 42, is from Muscatine Iowa. He has been married for 21 years to Debbie. They have two children. Tim was born and raised in Muscatine County on the family farm from the 1870s. Tim has an Ag Marketing Degree and drives school bus for Wilton and Durant Schools. Tim is a 4th generation Old Thresher and raising the 5th generation. He has been to every Reunion since 1977 (his mom was pregnant with him at the 1976 Reunion). The family has exhibited gas engines and tractors for many years. Tim started at Midwest Central in 1991 at 14 years old and then with Midwest Electric in 2016. He has also helped with school tours, Haunted Rails, special events, Festival of Lights and drives an Old Threshers Bus. Tim says Threshers is his home away from home. His wife and kids are all Midwest Electric volunteers.

Bryan Katchay

Bryan Katchay, 60, is from Mt. Pleasant. He is single and has a large spiritual family as a volunteer and as a local and on-line congregation pastor. He was born and raised in GeorgeTown, Guyana, South America and moved to the United States at age 11. He has made Mt. Pleasant his home and works at Henry County Health Center. Bryan volunteers as a saloon singer for 17 years in the North Village, does solo concerts in Building A for 2 years and leading the hymn sings at the North Village Chapel for 15 years. Bryan has promoted Midwest OT Reunion in his Kansas years, has made lots of family friends over the years and has provided direction and historical information on the grounds and during the pre-show morning hours in the Saloon.

Rick Kaufman

Rick Kaufman, 72, of Danvers, IL is married to wife, Karen. He is a retired highway construction Superintendent. Rick has exhibited at Old Threshers for 42 years and has volunteered for numerous years. The two main exhibits (1) and 1895 one of a kind Walls gas engine and (2) a 1919 Witte buzz saw which belonged to my wife's great grandfather. Rick has a collection of over 80 antique chain saws.

Mark Loftus

Mark Loftus, 63, is from Elmhurst, IL and is married to Jean Fisher. Mark was born and raised in Chicago Ridge, IL and now lives in Elmhurst. Mark volunteers with the Midwest Electric Railway. He came in 2010 with his wife who had been here the year before and started volunteering shortly after. He has spent his career in Industrial Maintenance. He loves old vehicles and fixing things. He has also remodeled a couple of houses and rebuilt a few cars and motorcycles.

Carl and Maribelle Lund

Carl, 73, and Maribelle, 71, are from Mt. Pleasant. They have three children and four grandchildren. Carl and Maribelle both grew up in Henry County as a farm boy and farm girl. Maribelle was 5 miles from Wayland.

Carl is a farmer and actively involved on the cooking crew for Henry County Cattlemen. Maribelle is a farm wife and a volunteer at the Quaker Store. Carl and Maribelle have been in charge of the ground trains for 25 years but have worked in that area for closer to 40 years.

Marc Lutz

Marc Lutz, 44, is from West Burlington, Iowa. He is married to wife Kalisha and they have three daughters. Marc was born and raised in Good Hope, IL. His wife and her family have attended OT all of her life. Our family hasn't missed a year since we have been together. Marc is an energy auditor for the low income home weatherization program through Community Actin of Southeast Iowa. Marc has volunteered since 2013 to the present time with the Back Shop and

Stage. He takes vacation time from work to volunteer and camp. He enjoys the projects and it's a nice change of pace. Marc helps setup the Christmas displays since year 1. He has always loved Christmas lights and that he has been able to help since the beginning.

Mike and Harriet "Heidi" Riepe

Michael "Mike" and Harriet "Heidi" Riepe Mike and Heidi Riepe, both 73, are from Mt. Pleasant. They have three grown children, Sam, Ben and Kate. Mike was born and raised in Mt. Pleasant and Heidi was born in New Orleans, LA, and raised in Marceline, MO and Fort Madison, Iowa. Mike is a retired attorney. Heidi is a pianist and piano teacher. Mike volunteered from 1979-1984 with the Midwest Central Railroad and now is with the Log Village. Heidi has volunteered since 1979 in the Log Village.

Ben Lutz

Ben Lutz, 71, is from Good Hope, IL. He has been married for 47 years to Cecelia. They have two children: Melissa and Marc, who also volunteers and got Ben started here. After high school Ben spent four years in the US Navy and 49 years working in the tool and dye shop and an engineering manager for a forging company. Ben has been volunteering with Old Threshers for four years and also four years helping with the Christmas lights.

Todd and Amy Mabeus

Todd and Amy Mabeus are from Mt. Pleasant, IA. They are the parents of four children. Todd was raised on a farm north of Salem, IA. Amy was born and raised in Mt. Pleasant, leaving to attend college and then returning. Todd graduated MPCHS and began working at Mt. Pleasant Electric in the fall of 1983, becoming the owner in 1989. Amy is the director of the Tiger Spirit Store and works in mail operations at Iowa Wesleyan University. To Todd's knowledge, he has been to every Reunion since birth. He was a part of the "Annual Kinney Reunion." He went with his Grandmother Mabeus for many years as a child to sell OT tee shirts for

OBITUARIES

Dave Brown

Dave Brown, 70, of Mt. Pleasant, died September 20, 2019 at the Henry County Health Center in Mt. Pleasant.

David E. Brown was born December 21, 1948, in Mt. Pleasant to Lloyd and Dolores (Mottet) Brown.

He grew up on his family farm near Trenton and graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School in 1967. On June 3rd, 1972 in Mt. Pleasant, Dave was united in marriage to Elaine Ann Keefe.

Dave began college at the former Northeast Missouri State College (Truman University). His education was interrupted by the Vietnam War. He entered the United States Navy on June 18, 1969. He served as a Hospital Corpsman on the island of Guam and in Portsmouth, VA. He was honorably discharged on March 5, 1973 at the Naval Station in San Francisco, CA.

Dave resumed his education and

received both his Bachelor and Master Degrees from Northeast Missouri State.

Dave began teaching at Williamsburg but soon accepted a position and was an English teacher at Mt. Pleasant High School for 40-some years, where he was most passionate about poetry, grammar, and theater. Dave directed numerous plays and musicals for MPHS and Mt. Pleasant Community Theater. He would often be found singing in the halls in the school before class.

Dave loved spending time woodworking and enjoying the outdoors. He and his buddies hiked a part of the Appalachian Trail every year for over 30 years including this past summer. He was a longtime volunteer for the Log Village at Midwest Old Threshers where he loved speaking to visitors during the Reunion.

Dave loved his family and loved traveling to spend time with his loved ones. He especially liked traveling to see

his grandkids.

He is survived by his wife Elaine, daughters Kate Brownwaite (Kat) of Atlanta, GA and Carrie Brown (Mitch Brunssen) of Mt. Union, 3 grandchildren, Elaine, Mabon, and Heron Brownwaite; 2 sisters—Ann (Rich) MacDonald of Winona, MN and Mary (Chris) Corby of Nashville, TN; 3 brothers—Mike (Donna) Brown of North Liberty, Marvin (Joan) Brown of Mt. Pleasant, and Tracy (Sherilyn) Brown of Union City, TN; his Mother-in-Law Jean Keefe Beavers of Mt. Pleasant as well and many dear nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Dave's parents precede him in death.

Those considering an expression of sympathy may direct memorials to the Log Village at Midwest Old Threshers, the Mt. Pleasant Community Theater, or the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

2019 OT VOLUNTEER AWARDS, CON'T.

ARC of Henry County. He is on the Faith Lutheran Church Committee and has been for 25 years. He currently helps, with his wife, at the Carousel and serves as President of the Old Thresher's Foundation Board.

Amy has been the Carousel coordinator since the new building was built. She has volunteered at the Faith Lutheran Church food tent since she was a little girl. She remembers serving cheeseburgers out of a Styrofoam cooler while standing on a folding chair. Amy cleaned the grandstands as a member of the Mt. Pleasant Jaycees. She later cleaned the track and grandstand and did backstage security with the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority.

Sherry Rila

Sherry Rila, 66, is from Mt. Pleasant. She is married to husband, Chuck, and they have

grown children. Sherry was born in Burlington, Iowa. She worked for Alco for 2 ½ years and has worked retail for Wal-Mart for 34 years. She retired this June. She received grants from Wal-Mart for Old Threshers for her volunteer hours. Sherry cleaned restrooms on the north side from 1984 – 1985 as a paid position. She has rented out rooms in her home in 1985. She began at the camp grounds in 1990 helping to park and direct campers. Sherry came to work weekends at the Camp ground, and worked at hospitality registering campers. Sold souvenirs at Vera's booth, signed up campers for "Potty" dump, helped our guests with questions and directions for our town. Sherry wants our guests to enjoy OT and have a wonderful time while they were here.

Brad Sharp

Brad Sharp, 35, from Jacksonville, MO, is

married to his wife Mattie. They have a son and two daughters. Brad was born and raised in Randolph County, MO and graduated from Cairo High School. He works as an industrial insulator at MU. Brad volunteers in the horse area and has been attending and helping out there since 2008.

Dan Wistrom

Dan Wistrom, 68, is from Sperry, IL. He and his wife, Jacky have three children. Their whole family has grown up at Old Threshers. Dan was born and raised at Burlington, IA and is a farrier by trade. Dan was director of the horse area from 1974 to 2018. He has been a volunteer since 1980. Dan also volunteered for the Haunted House and the Swap Meet. He raises Morgan and Percheron horses. Dan looks forward to OT as it is "truly a family reunion".

2020 EVENTS

Country Music Announcement: March 11th
Steam School: April 25-26, May 2-3
School Tours: April-May
Greater Iowa Swap Meet & Collectibles Show: May 22-23
Midwest Old Threshers Reunion: Sept. 3-7
Great Northern Printers' Fair—September 2020
Thrashers House of Terror—Thursdays and Saturday nights in October
Midwest Haunted Rails—Friday and Saturday nights in October



Old Threshers Reunion

Sept. 3-7, 2020

Mount Pleasant, Iowa



*Happy Holidays
from all of us at
Midwest Old
Threshers!*