

# Threshers Chaff

Midwest Old Threshers Association  
Mount Pleasant, Iowa

Volume 41, Number 3

Winter 2015

## Colorado Logs Make Trip to OT and Sears Sawmill

In 2012, the state of Colorado experienced devastating forest fires. The Lower North Fork Fire near Conifer, started in late March as a prescribed burn by the Colorado State Forest Service. Dry conditions and high winds blew it out of control. Several days later, 4,140 acres lay scorched, 27 homes were destroyed and three people lost their lives.

Old Threshers visitor Scott Appel lost his home and his wife Ann in that fire. Hundreds of acres of trees were lost to the flames. Scott turned to logging and harvested some of those trees to be turned into energy to heat the National Renewable Energy Lab in Golden, Colorado.

He chose several of the Douglas Fir for something a little more personal.

For years, Scott has attended the Old Threshers Reunion and watched logs being sawn at the Sears Sawmill. Gerald Sears started sawing in 1955, the year Scott was born.

On a warm, September afternoon, 60 years later, Gerald takes his place on the mill and begins to turn those hand-picked logs into lumber.

By looking at the growth rings, Scott can tell the logs he chose came from trees that were 125 years old. "The rings are close together, meaning the tree grew slowly,"



Gerald Sears saws one of the logs brought all the way from Colorado during the 2015 Reunion.

explained Scott.

The lumber from the logs will be made into furniture. The furniture, a symbol for Scott and his two sons of home and the wife and mother they lost so tragically.

## New Penny Machine Attracts Out of State Visitor

Joan Hollywood of Monee, Ill., made the trek along the famed Route 66 from Illinois to Arizona in search of copper treasures. Joan is a collector of smashed pennies. Her journey was coming to an end in early September, but not before visiting Mt. Pleasant and Old Threshers' Penny Pincher.

Joan collects and trades pennies that have been through the penny pinching process. After this trip, her collection grew to 15,500. She buys a postcard from wherever she finds a machine and a friend scrapbooks it for her.

Joan recommends using pennies that are from 1981 and older as they are all copper and won't tarnish over time.



Joan Hollywood, Monee, Ill, came to OT to smash pennies.

**SPRING 2016 AT MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS**

March 10—Country Music Tickets On Sale \* April 30-May 1—Steam School

April 25—First Day of School Tours \* May 27-29—Greater Iowa Swap Meet & Flea Market

# *Attitude is Everything!*

Greetings from Midwest Old Threshers!

As we approach the 2016 Holiday Season, I think back to December 26, 2013, when Old Threshers learned of Karen Timmerman's passing. That same day, Lennis Moore was diagnosed. In a quick six months, my friend, my mentor, my boss, and leader of Old Threshers for over 30 years had died. Our lives can change in the blink of an eye!

Change – whether you like change or not is really the only thing that happens to each of us on a daily basis in our lives and surroundings.

Lennis and I spoke many times about what the founding group of men would think about today's Old Threshers compared to the first one in 1950.

Dear Friend:

Mt. Pleasant, Ia., Sept. 6, 1950

## OLD SETTLERS AND THRESHERS REUNION

At McMillan Park, September 20 and 21, 1950

You are invited to attend.

15 steam engines in operation. Miniature saw mill sawing lumber, Harry W. Hinson, Grafton, Ill. 1 miniature steam engine, separator and tank, John J. Van Barren. Large list of miniature models. Many in operation.

Old settlers exhibit: Indian relics, including a pre-historic stone axe weighing 142 pounds.

Threshing with flail, ground hogs, chaf piler, hand fed separator and self feeder.

Cash prizes for old fiddlers, oldest thresher, and thresher who came the farthest. No fees, but a free will offering will be taken to help pay expenses. Lunch will be served on the grounds.

Mt. Pleasant is on U. S. Highways 34 and 218, about 26 miles west of Burlington, Ia. Come and bring a carload with you and enjoy both days of fun and education. Hotel reservations on request.

MIDWEST OLD SETTLERS AND THRESHERS ASS'N, Inc.

Ray H. Ernest, President

Herman E. Elgar, Secretary

Since that first Reunion back in 1950, there have been many ups and downs and changes for the Association. With each of those moments, Old Threshers has had to change, adapt, overcome, create something new, find a new path and even disregard things.

I hope that I may continue to lead the necessary changes, additions, and even some deletions, to keep the Association moving forward to meet those changes head-on. But I also need your help. As the saying goes, "There is no "I" in TEAM!" and "If Plan A doesn't work, we need to choose one of the other 25 letters in the alphabet."

I welcome emails, phone calls, visits and notes filled with your thoughts, ideas and suggestions for making Old Threshers the best it can be! It will take all of us working together to accomplish the needed growth and changes to keep Old Threshers at the top!

It is hard for me to believe that, with a positive attitude, there isn't anything we can't accomplish, even if it takes time.

From my family - my wife Cyndi, my kids Brady, Nathan and Rachel - to you and yours – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



P.S. Don't forget to mark your calendars for September 1-5, 2016!

## OT Welcomes Two New Board Members

The Old Threshers Board of Directors welcomes Robert L. Myers of Williamsfield, Ill. He and his wife, Carla, have been married for 49 years and have four daughters, 14 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

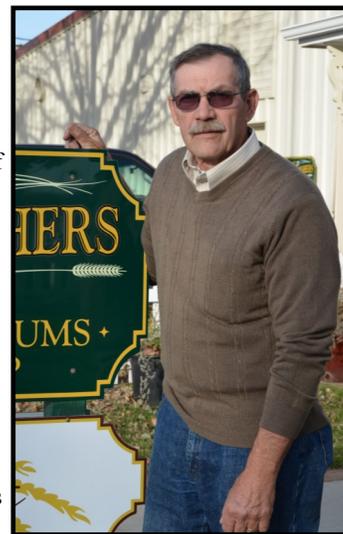


**Robert Myers**

Bob worked for Midcentry Telephone Coop in Canton, Ill., for 39 years. He started as an installer repairman and retired in 2006 as Computer System Administrator.

Bob attended his first Old Threshers Reunion in 1967 and has attended every one since then. Bob says its people are the greatest strength of Old Threshers. He will be the Area Director for the Campground and looks forward to helping fellow board members and continuing to improve Old Threshers.

The Old Threshers Board of Directors welcomes Rich Seberg of Mt. Pleasant.



**Rich Seberg**

Rich and his wife, Jeanie have 7 children and a total of 27 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

According to Rich's parents, he attended the very first Old Threshers Reunion. He and Jeanie have been very involved over the past few years with the landscaping around the grounds and planting flowers as well as picking up trash during the Reunion and keeping the grounds looking nice.

Rich will be the Area Director for the North Village. He feels a great responsibility in passing on the history portrayed here at Old Threshers to future generations. He would like to see more children involved and wants to continue to improve the grounds and buildings.

## Reynolds Steps Down after More Than Three Decades

The Midwest Old Threshers Association held its Annual Meeting on November 14 in the Performance Level of the Theatre Museum. Over 100 people attended.

CEO Terry McWilliams addressed the crowd thanking them for their hard work during the 2015 season. Tom Holtkamp from TD & T, went over the financial report stating that The Association is in good standing. It continues to be asset rich and cash poor, however, a successful 2015 Reunion produced enough cash to pay off the bills as well as a short-term note.

After more than three decades, Earl Reynolds stepped down from the OT Board of Directors. He has held many offices during his tenure and has been the Director over several areas, most recently the North Village. Earl has been involved in many of the improvements around the grounds and has seen many changes since he first joined the Board. He will be missed.

Clair McBride also stepped down. Clair was Area Director for the Campground for nine years. He and his wife, Marlene, along with their daughter and extended family have worked hard to make campers feel welcome and at home. He has helped make many improvements to the campground making the visitors' experience more enjoyable.

Mark your calendars for the 2016 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion—September 1-5.



**OT CEO Terry McWilliams, left, honors Earl Reynolds, middle, and Clair McBride with plaques commemorating their service on the Old Threshers Board of Directors.**

## OT Means Camping, Exhibiting and Being with Family



**From left: Kristin Heinzl, Riley Heinzl, Matthew Heinzl, Lon Royer and Kohlton Heinzl stand by their Massey Harris tractors. The Reunion is a tradition for this southeast Iowa family.**

*Editor's Note: This is the fourth of four stories featuring Massey-Harris collectors, this year's featured tractor.*

Lon Royer is the service manager at Morning Sun Farm Implement in Morning Sun, Iowa. One would think he would get his fill of tractors at work - far from

it. After he sees to his customer's machinery he comes home to dozens of his own stock. Lon has 30 tractors, not all of them are restored. His goal is to work on one a year.

He started his collection with an Allis Chalmers and a couple of Farmalls that had belonged to his uncles. You will also find John Deere, Minneapolis Moline, Oliver and Case in his shed but you'll first have to walk past the Massey Harris fleet.

As far as having a favorite, Lon says he likes them all. "You won't catch me on a John Deere much just because of where I work."

Each member of the family has their own Massey. Daughter Kristin, son-in-law Matthew and grandsons Riley and Kohlton all exhibit at the Reunion.

Lon has been attending Old Threshers since the late 1950s. The first Reunion he remembers is 1960. He has always been a gas tractor guy, however his grandfather and dad were involved in traction steam. His grandfather also volunteered for the Midwest Central Railroad.

Getting together with family, camping and enjoying family meals are just as much a part of the Reunion for Lon's family as is exhibiting. He hopes to see young kids get involved and keep the traditions alive.

## Obituaries

### Dorothy Anne Sabin

Dorothy Anne Sabin, age 93, of Bricelyn, Minn., died August 24, at her home.

Dorothy Anne was born December 28, 1921, in Minneapolis, MN, the daughter of Ole and Barbara (Henrickson) Bruvold. Dorothy attended normal training in Blue Earth, MN, where she received her certificate for teaching. She was united in marriage to Clifford Noel Sabin on December 28, 1945, at the South Blue Earth Lutheran Church.

She worked as a country school teacher, and was a loving farm wife, and mother. She was a very active member of Zion Lutheran Church, and enjoyed her involvement with the women's organizations. She was an avid gardener, and would can the food that she harvested. Dorothy kept up with the daily news and enjoyed discussing politics. Her love of quilting turned into such a pastime for her that she made over 100 quilts for her church, as well as many more that will be treasured by her family for years.

Dorothy's love for her family was

endless, and she so enjoyed hosting family reunions on the farm. Her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have been blessed to have her in their lives. Dorothy always looked for the positive in every aspect of her life, even through difficult times.

Dorothy is survived by her children: Steve (Kathy) Sabin of CA, daughter-in-law Jodie Sabin, Sandy Moore of IA, Bill Sabin of MN, and Gretchen Hansen (Mark Brotherton) of WI; grandchildren: Michelle Sabin, Matt Sabin, Jammie Sabin, Robbie Sabin, Lucas Moore, Ben Moore, Catie Scott, Andy Sabin, Danny Sabin, Joe Sabin, Tena Cunningham, and Beth McPeak; 18 great-grandchildren; sisters: Cary Taylor of Blue Earth and Margaret Larson of Minneapolis; and many nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Clifford; sisters: Virginia, Marianne, and Barbara in infancy; son, James; great-granddaughter, Morgan Cunningham; and son-in-law, Lennis Moore.

The family would like to express their

deep gratitude to Barb Weigel for her devotion and care of Dorothy.

### David Arthur Roberts

David Arthur "Dave" Roberts, 89, passed away August 31, 2015 at Methodist Medical Center as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Dave was born October 30, 1925 to Cyral "Scotty" and Olive Roberts in Des Moines. After graduating from Des Moines Roosevelt (where he took Cloris Leachman to a dance), Dave enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943 and served his country with honor in the South Pacific Theatre on the USS Buriyas and USS Cascade. He was a computer systems analyst for 36 years at Equitable of Iowa and Principal before retiring. Dave was a member of Auburn Masonic Lodge and a 32nd degree consistory member. He was proud of his Scottish heritage, enjoyed traveling across the United States and spent much of his retirement in his wood shop where he was a master woodsmith. Dave is survived by his loving family;

**Continued page 14**

## OLD THRESHERS FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT - 2015

It is my pleasure, as Executive Director, to provide a brief overview of the Old Threshers Foundation's performance during 2015. This has been another successful year; here are some of the highlights:

Tractor Raffle – Thank you to Paul and Joyce Dennison for donating a 1951 WD Allis Chalmers tractor. Thank you to all who purchased one of the 8,386 tickets sold @ \$1.00 each for the benefit of school tours!

Quarterly Newsletter – Thank you to Kirsten Heerd for serving as editor of our newly created quarterly newsletter which is mailed to the Foundation's major donors (those who have given over \$1,000). This is a "mini" version of *The Chaff* which is published



quarterly, on line, by Midwest Old Threshers.

New Brochures – Our summer intern helped develop two new brochures: one about the Foundation and its support of Midwest Old Threshers and one regarding school tours that can be sent to schools inviting them to participate in the elementary school tours that are held at Old Threshers each spring.

Iowa State Fair – The Foundation partnered with Midwest Old Threshers, the city of Mount Pleasant, the Chamber Alliance and Iowa Wesleyan University to promote Mt. Pleasant, Henry County, the University and the Old Threshers Reunion to the million visitors during the 11-day Iowa State Fair.

Smashing Penny Machine – This was new for our visitors in the Foundation Room during the reunion and plans are to use it for school tours and also the Iowa State Fair next year. Those saving collectible pennies can choose from four Lennis Moore designs: steam carousel, steam engine, trolley & tractor. This has placed us on a national register that has brought visitors to OT who collect these pennies.

School Tour Endowment – The Foundation received its first-ever endowment for school tours in the amount of \$20,000 from the Dane Family in Iowa City, Iowa.

Pass-Through Account – This account continues to grow in popularity because donors can designate a specific purpose and the funds are transferred directly to Old Threshers. This past year nearly \$71,000 was contributed to a variety of projects including the campground, carousel, drive-a-tractor, Festival of Lights, museum exhibits, Printer's Hall, school tours, steam headquarters, Theater Museum, horses and the trolley.

Here are the financial statistics for the Foundation as of its fiscal year, ending October 31, 2015:

**Total cash under management: \$ 1,233,735 – Cash Basis** (endowment, checking acct, petty cash)  
**\$ 1,395,924 – Market Value** (endowment, checking acct, petty cash)

**Total market value of all assets: \$ 3,395,924** – includes endowment, checking acct, petty cash and farm  
**Donations Received: \$ 79,943.91** - These funds are invested as principal; only the earnings are spent.  
This amount includes \$45,244 received from the Floyd Granaman Trust.

**Interest & Dividends \$ 36,682.10 Earned**—Investment earnings received from the checking and trust accounts.

**Farm Rental Payments: \$ 53,370.00**—Frederick Strong bequeathed his Illinois farm to the Foundation in April 1997.

**Gross Income: \$ 90,052.10**—This amount is the sum of the interest & dividends plus farm rent.

**Expenses: \$ 14,709.34** (farm taxes and insurance, tax preparation fees, admin costs)

**Net Income: \$ 75,342.76**—The amount typically transferred to Old Threshers for financial support in 2016.

As you approach year-end and consider your charitable contributions for this tax year, please keep our Old Threshers Foundation in mind. Remember your gifts to our Foundation qualify as charitable contributions to a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization for Federal income, estate and gift tax purposes. In addition to monetary contributions, other ways to support the Foundation include: a will bequest, a designation as a life insurance beneficiary, and/or a gift of appreciated stock. On behalf of the Foundation Board, we thank you, again, for your continued support which enables us to fulfill our mission of providing financial support to Midwest Old Threshers.

**Galva Couple Wins Autographed Guitar by Mackenzie Notestein**



**Gladys Van Dyke, left, and Leroy Van Dyke, right, present Anita Beebe, Albia, with an autographed guitar. Anita and her husband, Jim, were the high bidders for the annual auction to benefit the OT School Tour Program.**

The Midwest Old Threshers Foundation held its annual guitar auction during the 2015 Country Gold Concert on Reunion Thursday.

This year, the Country Gold performers were Leroy Van Dyke, Barbara Fairchild, Jimmy Fortune, and

Johnny Lee. Each of the performers autographed a guitar to be auctioned to the highest bidder with proceeds benefiting Midwest Old Threshers School Tour Program. This year the lucky, highest bidders were Jim and Anita Beebe.

Jim and Anita are from Galva, Illinois, and have been camping here during the Old Threshers Reunion for eight years. This year, they arrived August 22<sup>nd</sup> and have loved every minute of it.

Anita said they meet a lot of different people throughout the campgrounds every year. They love everything about Old Threshers. "We love watching the steam tractors and the different shows," Anita said. They also enjoy watching the volunteers and workers doing their part on the grounds.

For a long time, they wanted to be the ones who won the guitar during the Country Gold concert. Finally, this year they decided to go for it and they ended up getting the guitar!

"It was a tough competition," said Anita. Jim also said, "The reason why we wanted to get the guitar is because we really wanted to have it and be able to say that we got it from Old Threshers. Plus, it has all the performers' signatures." On the guitar, not only does it have the signatures but it has the date and Old Threshers on it as well. Anita said, "If this keeps going, the contributions will help Old Threshers."

**Fairfield Man Wins 1951 WD Allis Chalmers in Raffle**

Congratulations to Jason Taylor of Fairfield, Iowa! Jason won the 1951 WD Allis Chalmers donated by Paul and Joyce Dennison of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Proceeds from the auction benefits the Midwest Old Threshers School Tour Program.

The drawing was held September 7th at the Richard E. Oetken Tractor Headquarters building. A total of 8,386 tickets were sold. Miss Sweet 16 2015, Shawna Sammons, had the honor of digging deep into the container of tickets and picking the winner.

For more information about the Foundation and the School Tour Program call Alan Huisinga at the Old Threshers office 319-385-8937.



**Foundation Executive Director, Alan Huisinga, right, hands the keys to a 1951 WD Allis Chalmers over to Jason Taylor of Fairfield. Jason bought the winning raffle ticket.**

**Thank You to Everyone Who Has Supported the Foundation!**

**Alan Huisinga, Executive Director**



**2016 Featured Lawn & Garden Tractor**  
1965 Case 130  
Owned by Buckert Family, Fred & Ruth Buckert  
Hamilton, Illinois



**2016 Featured Antique Gas Tractor**  
1951 Case DC  
Owned by Eric & Kelly Hosette  
Charlotte, Iowa



**2016 Featured Traction Steam Engine**  
1/2 Scale Rear-Mount Advance  
Owned by James Broadhead and John Broadhead  
Colchester, Illinois



**2016 Featured Gas Engine**  
Any Vertical Style Engine  
Stover & Fairbanks "T" 2HP  
Owned by Ike & Carol Lockridge—Rogers, Arkansas



**2016 Featured Antique Truck**  
1947 Mack E.F.  
Owned by Mike Harbison, Sr.  
Morning Sun, Iowa



**2016 Featured Antique Car**  
1913 Buick Touring  
Owned by Charlotte & the late Gary Seyb, Jr.  
Donnellson, Iowa

## 2015 Miss Sweet 16 Participants



(Back Row from left) Kasey Bos—Geneseo, Ill.; Sarah Melsha—Anamosa; Breanna Keldgord—Mt. Pleasant; Aliya Davis—Mt. Pleasant; Aspen Bromell—Mt. Pleasant; Lauren Perron—Mt. Pleasant; Riley Amos—Mt. Pleasant; Kinsey Bruggemeyer—Mt. Pleasant; Olivia Oetken—Mt. Pleasant. (Front row from left) Abbie Liechty—Mt. Pleasant; Ashley Schinstock—Mt. Pleasant, Delaney Wilson—Mt. Pleasant; Skyler Melville—Mt. Pleasant; Shawna Sammons—Mt. Pleasant; Abigail Bixler—Mt. Pleasant; Michelle Stalder—Cedar Rapids, Sarah Tweedy—Mt. Pleasant, Chelsea Lamphier—Richland, Kirsten Smith—Mt. Pleasant.



From left: Miss Sweet 16 3rd Runner Up—Ashley Schinstock of Mt. Pleasant; Miss Sweet 16 2015—Shawna Sammons of Mt. Pleasant; Miss Sweet 16 2nd Runner Up—Kristen Smith of Mt. Pleasant; Miss Sweet 16 1st Runner Up—Abbie Liechty of Mt. Pleasant

Below: 2014 Miss Sweet 16 ,Caitlyn DePriest, crowns Shawna Sammons, Miss Sweet 16 2015.



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For anyone who would like to participate in the 2016 Miss Sweet 16 Program, applications are available at the Old Threshers office or by calling 319-385-8937.

## Midwest Haunted Rails & THOT Set Record Crowds

The ghosts and goblins haunting McMillan Park weren't too scary for more than 10,000 people who visited Mt. Pleasant and Midwest Haunted Rails during the month of October.

Thrasher's House of Terror also had more than 6,100 people dare to enter the 21-room, fright-filled attraction. The busiest night saw a record 1,300 people.

As with all events at Midwest Old Threshers a big thank you goes out to the volunteers. It takes more than 200 of them a night to make it all happen!



## Festival of Lights Turn Campground into Magic Place

Entering its third year, the Mt. Pleasant Festival of Lights has grown from 60 displays to 82. Preparation for the event begins in October when light displays share space with the Halloween decorations from Haunted Rails. (Below) Terry McWilliams works on electrifying a new train display while (far right) Linda Enearl and Melinda Huisinga check light bulbs. The event runs through New Year's Eve.



## 2015 Midwest Old Threshers Volunteer Awards



Front row from left: Wes Bender, Andy Rothove, Keith Sommer, Charlene Whipple, Lisa Augsburger, Kent Harpman, Keith Bray, Dorothy Martin, Sharon Davis, Doris Tuller, Louis Tuller, John Wilson, Allen Wagler. Back row from left: Russell Lamp, Vicki Gerdes, Nancie Holmes, Tom Sater, Glenda Dobbins, Teresa Grimm, Kenny Grimm, Eugene Rinker, Steve O'Grady, Doris Price. Not Pictured—Gary LaForce.

### Wes Bender

Wes is a retired Marine who served in Viet Nam and upon return, joined The Iowa Army National Guard as a fulltime technician, retiring in 2007. Wes, thank you for your service. Wes came to Midwest Old Threshers in 1981 discovering the Midwest Electric Railway. Electric trolleys had been a life-long interest of his. As volunteer, he has become the historian for the Midwest Electric Railway. Wes also, volunteers at the Military Museum in Camp Dodge, Iowa. Wes was born in St. Louis and raised in Cedar Rapids. His best friend Sandy is his wife. Together they live in Springville, Iowa.

### Andy Rothove

Andy was born in Jefferson City, Missouri and was raised in Westphalla, Missouri. He spent 28 years in electronics and 15 years working with computer information systems. This experience has enabled Andy to volunteer at OT helping with maintenance and "behind the scene" issues reducing the need for outside contractors. Andy and his wife, Jane, live in Mexico, MO.

### Keith Sommer

Keith is married to Shirley and lives in Pandora, Ohio on Century farm. They have two children and three grandchildren. Keith's career has been in residential, commercial, and institutional construction and maintenance. As a volunteer for OT since 1988, Keith has worked in Sater's Blacksmith Shop in the North Village. He has attended the Reunion consecutively, for 46 years. Keith, also, volunteers his

time to many historical societies and trade guilds.

### Charlene Whipple

Charlene was born and raised in Hopkins, MO. Retired from the fraud department of Verizon telephone, she is one of three generations who volunteer for Old Threshers. Charlene has volunteered for 39 years. Her volunteerism has involved important basic sanitation chores, clean up in Museum B and North Village. Possibly, a more enjoyable volunteer job has been in the Horse Area helping friend Kent Harpman. Charlene has two daughters, four grandsons and three siblings. A family tradition for 39 years is dancing in the Barn

### Lisa Augsburger

Lisa graduated with her MA degree in education and is currently, in her 31<sup>st</sup> year as a 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher in Mt. Pleasant. She has volunteered in the North Village in the Saloon singing and dancing for thirty years. Fortunately, her two pregnancies did not interfere with Old Threshers Reunion! Lisa is proud of the fact that her daughters have joined her on the stage. She says it is a great family event. Her husband, Scott, is a former volunteer for the railroad and carousel. She was born in Sigourney, Iowa and was raised on the family farm in Keswick, Iowa.

### Kent Harpman

Kent worked in cars sales for 30 years, some of which were spent as sales manager for Shottenkirk in Ft. Madison. While employed, the family vacation was

planned around the Old Threshers Reunion, usually, camping in the car with baby daughter, Kris. It became a family tradition so that Kent could volunteer in the Horse Area. He has not missed a Reunion since 1963 and has volunteered the last 42 years. Both he and his horse, Buckeye with buggy, enjoy parading in front of the grandstands. Kent was born in Victoria, IL in 1931, raised in Beulah, Colo and Williamsfield, IL. He now lives in Montezuma, Iowa. You can always find Kent and his family of a daughter, grandson, nieces, nephews, great nephews and great nieces and fiancé supporting the music by dancing in The Barn.

### Keith Bray

Keith, who was born and raised in Iowa City, now lives in Palmyra, Virginia with his wife, Julie. Keith started attending Old Threshers in 1965. Since 1966, he has been volunteering for Midwest Electric Railway helping with the trolley restorations. One project involved finishing the restoration of Car 320. When this was finished, he and Julie were married on the car!

### Dorothy Martin

Dorothy was born, raised and schooled in Alburnett, Iowa. She now lives in rural Marion with Paul, her husband of 64 years. They have four children, one deceased, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Dorothy and Paul started attending OT in the middle 70s. Her volunteer work in the Gas Tractor Office has been very rewarding for her. She looks forward, every year, to talking to longtime attendees and meeting new ones.

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**2015 OT Volunteer Awards** continued from page 10

**Sharon Fricke Davis**

Sharon is a second generation volunteer at Old Threshers. She has been attending OT since the mid-fifties. At present, Sharon is on The Old Thresher's Foundation Board while continuing to volunteer as needed for school tours, Gift Shop, and office mailings. Sharon is a life-long volunteer in the First United Methodist Food tent The family exhibits in the steam area and antique car area. Sharon and her husband of 52 years, Jerry, live in Salem and have three children, nine grandchildren and one great grandson.

**Doris Tuller**

Doris was born in Drakesville, Iowa, and raised in Ottumwa where she finished high school. Having worked for Metromail for 29 years as postal coordinator she is now retired. Doris started attending Old Threshers in 1967. She has volunteered in the Gas Engine Area and Registration. She has, also, helped in the Swap Meet Area. Doris married Louis in 1957 and presently live in Mt. Pleasant. They have 2 sons and four grandchildren

**Louis Tuller**

Louis is a recently retired director of Old Threshers. Louis has volunteered for 36 years. Many areas have benefited from Louis' involvement. He has been involved in construction and development ranging from the campground electricity to museum and equipment exhibits to bathroom construction! Louis has a collection of gas tractors and considers Old Threshers his second home. As a result of his involvement in Old Threshers, the Tullers have made many friends. Doris and Louis are also our Harvest Parade Marshals for this year.

**John R Wilson**

John was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska. He works as an HVAC technician. John is the middle generation of three generations volunteering at Old Threshers. He began volunteering in 2010 in the Wilkie Machine Shop with his father. John, son of John D. and Teola Wilson, has been married to Le Anne for 13 years. They have one son, Gregory who volunteers in Stationary Steam.

**Allen Wagler**

Born and raised in Trenton, Iowa, Allen worked at Old Threshers for Lloyd Peterson, ultimately, getting involved in the Antique Building, Antique Car Area, the Midwest Central Railroad, the Popcorn Stand and Ground Train Allen was one of the first ground train drivers, making the rounds with a Ford Ferguson tractor back when a ride was 10 cents. He has not missed a Reunion since. His wife joined him as a conductor on the ground train.

**Russell Lamp**

Russ studied law enforcement and political science. He has worked at Lamp Feed & Grain, a family business in Letts, Iowa, where he still resides with his wife, Heather and two daughters. He also, has been a row crop farmer. At present, he works in Mt. Pleasant for Steffes Group as an auctioneer. Russ has volunteered for Old Threshers for over 10 years, mostly in Steamland. He owns and operates 4 steam engines, has participated in various steam projects and, with his semi, transports steam equipment to and from the grounds for the Reunion. He considers the continuing community support and willing volunteers important to making Old Threshers Steam Show a leading show in the U. S.

**Vicki Gerdes**

Vicki is a Burlington, Iowa, native and retired teacher; having taught in Omaha, Nebraska and Danville, Iowa. She and her husband Bob, have three children and five grandchildren. Over the years, Vicki has volunteered in many areas on the grounds. For the past thirty years, she has enjoyed working with the children in areas such as the Carousel, school tours in the spring, Thrashers House of Terror, and the antique car building. Vicki also enjoys helping to care for the grounds and is involved with the Christmas lights and museum displays have also been where Vicki has helped.

**Nancie Holmes**

Even though Nancie has been heavily involved in many organizations and has attended Old Threshers for many years, she eagerly, started volunteering at Threshers in 1981. She is a retired preschool teacher and retired rehabilitation tech. Nancie lives in Kahoka, MO. She was born and raised in Luray, MO. She was married to the late Larry Holmes, has four children, ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Nancie helps at the gasoline tractor headquarters and most recently with the tractor pulls. Actively showing and parading tractors has been something she has done for many years.

**Tom Sater**

Born and raised in Mt. Pleasant, Tom moved to Chicago in 1971 for 36 years, working in the field of design. That didn't stop him from returning to Mt. Pleasant every Labor Day weekend to volunteer at the Reunion. For many years, he worked in the Presbyterian Church food tent and has also volunteered in many other areas such as the trolley, carousel and for the

**Continued page 15**



**Left: Blockbuster, Inc., of Mt. Pleasant, processes as many as 7 semi-loads of wood to be used in the Traction Steam Area during the Reunion.**





## 2015 REUNION BY THE NUMBERS

**92 Traction Steam Engines**

**726 Gas Engines**

**1,000 Gas Tractors**

**40 Horse Exhibitors**

**146 Antique Cars & Trucks**

**4,567 Carousel Riders**

**7 Semi Loads of Split Wood**

**1,976 Rides Given at Drive A Tractor**

**High Temp 97° Low Temp 70°**

## Appreciating the Old, Embracing the Future by Glenna Voyles

Each year Bussey Doll Museum Curator Glenna Voyles organizes a "Bussey Doll Day" with proceeds benefiting the care and restoration of the collection. This effort is assisted by members of the U.F.D.C. Hawkeye Doll Club and Midwest Old Threshers volunteers.

The 2015 event entitled, "Appreciating the Old, Embracing the Future," featured a slide program on small, all-bisque German dolls by Glenna, as well as many fine examples exhibited by Hawkeye members. The inclusion of small, all bisque Japanese dolls was a choice made only for the displays in the cases. All of the dolls of these categories on display are examples from the private collection of the Curator.

Also featured was a program presented on modern, ball jointed dolls, with our out-of-state speaker, Donnell Wisniewski of Southern Illinois. She is an authority on these types of dolls. She shared many examples and much information.

As always, there were educational programs given, door prizes, wonderful morning food, a catered luncheon, an auction, and the always sought after Souvenir Gift to each paid registrant. This year was a ball jointed doll, paper dolls and a complimentary Doll Castle News magazine. There are some

leftovers if anyone is interested, check with Glenna.



Bussey Doll Museum Curator Glenna Voyles, gives a presentation in the Bussey Doll Museum. The doll

## Congratulations to Our Photo Contest Winners



1st Place  
Bryan Bechtold (\$100)



2nd Place  
Clay Newberry (\$50)



3rd Place  
Ben Campney (\$25)

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adopted daughter, Gina (Larry) Beltrame, grandson Marc Beltrame, beloved grand-dog, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Clyde, and nephews Scott Roberts, Tom (LaVerna) Hoke and Gary (Jeanette) Hoke.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Alan and wife Verlamay. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Old Threshers Foundation or the Companion Animal Fund at the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center at Iowa State University in honor of Dave Roberts and Clyde Beltrame.

### Ernest William Haines

Ernest "Cowboy" William Haines, age 86 of Fairfield, passed away November 13, 2015 at Van Buren County Hospital. Ernest was born May 17, 1929 to Archie William and Pansy Ernestine (Rudd) Haines in Mt. Pleasant, IA. He married

Mabel Elna Moyers October 9, 1955 in Burlington, at Bethany Lutheran Church. They celebrated 58 years of marriage before she passed away May 26, 2014. Ernest served in the Army for 3 years during the post-World War II and Korean War over in Germany. He worked 38 years on the DOT crew for Jefferson County and also farmed.

Ernest was a member of the VFW, Eagles and Moose Lodge of Mt. Pleasant. He enjoyed going to and participating in Old Threshers, tractors, horses and horse pulls, playing cards and dancing. Ernest enjoyed going to his kids and grandkids activities. Ernest never knew a stranger. He liked talking to everybody and was everybody's friend.

Ernest is survived by his 5 children, Elna Haines of Bloomfield, William (Bettye) Haines of Fairfield, Janet (Chuck) Sutter of Mt Pleasant, Leo Haines of

Fairfield, son-in-law, Jerry Harvey of West Point, and Ron (Heidi) Haines of Fairfield; 10 grandchildren, Travis Harvey, Ashley Harvey, Leah Harvey, Brandon (Sarah) Haines, Brock Haines, Kiley Haines, Aaron Haines, Evan Haines, Jessica Hines, and Melissa McCants; 5 great grandchildren, Camden, Tallen, Kelsie, Molly and Maci; two sisters, May (Bill) Watson, and Lola Douglas of Lockridge; and one sister-in-law, Betty Long of Burlington.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Archie and Pansy Haines; his wife, Mabel Haines; one daughter, Karla Harvey; one brother, Eddie Haines; and one sister, Violetta Haines.

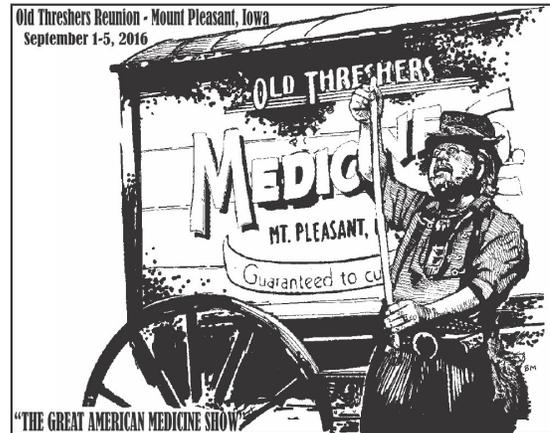
Memorials can be made to HCI Hospice, Lockridge Cemetery or VFW. Cards and memorials can be mailed to: Bill Haines, 2118 227th Street, Fairfield, Iowa 52556.

## Four Receive 30-Hour Award During Annual Meeting



From left: Earl Reynolds, Mickey Keller, Todd Mabeus and Clair McBride receive the 2016 30-hour award during the Old Threshers Annual Meeting.

Ben Moore has designed the 2016 30-hour award, featuring Professor Farquar.



## 2015 OT Volunteer Awards continued from page 11

Foundation. From the year he was born, Tom has helped his parents and sister parade the family's antique cars, and steam engines. He has especially, enjoyed the many friendships he has developed with people all over the United States.

### Glenda Dobbins

Glenda comes from Durant, Iowa to volunteer at Old Threshers. She and Howard, her husband have three sons and one grandchild. Glenda for the past 35 years has been a labor & delivery nurse. All of those 35 years have included coming to Old Threshers as a volunteer in the gasoline tractor area including overseeing the Kiddie Pull.

### Kenny Grimm & Teresa Grimm

Teresa and Kenny Live in Goose Lake, Iowa and have been married for 36 years. They have a married daughter and two grandchildren. Teresa was born and raised in Clinton, Iowa while Kenny hails from Goose Lake. Kenny farms, does carpentry work and is a mechanic. Teresa is a registered nurse, presently working for the state as a surveyor of nursing homes. Kenny has attended OT every year of his life. He introduced Teresa to the Reunion 36 years ago. Both have enjoyed volunteering for more than five years in various areas before, during and after the Reunion. The Grimms especially, look forward to seeing new found friends, and regard the people at Threshers as part of their family.

### Eugene Rinker

Eugene was married to the late Mary Beth for 58 years. He has 4 children, 11 grandkids, and 12 great grandkids. He is native of Streator, Illinois where he still lives. His occupations have been many - dairy farmer, trash man, trucker, mechanic and school bus driver. All of which have contributed to his valuable volunteer contributions to Old Threshers for thirty years. He has enjoyed working for John Weyer and Larry Anderson. Eugene has always been willing to do anything that he was asked to do for the back shop and has done it well.

### Steve O'Grady

Steve has been married for 40 years and has three grown children and ten grandchildren. Born and raised in Ringgold County, Iowa, he currently lives in Bloomfield, Iowa. The Blacksmith Shop in the North Village has been Steve's place to volunteer for OT for the past 21 years. He has helped make this an interesting place to visit when touring the North Village.

### Doris Price

Doris lives in Mt. Pleasant with Larry, her husband of 50 years. They have three children, and four grandchildren. Doris was born in Washington, Iowa. Having been raised in the Welch Community near Crawfordville, she particularly remembers binders, threshers, the horses and the awesome meals. Traditions similar to what now takes place at Old Threshers. Her early working years were

in a factory. She then became in charge of concessions for Mt. Pleasant Schools which lasted many years.

In 1967, Doris hired a baby sitter so that she could volunteer with the American Legion Post selling buttons at the gates and selling show tickets until the 1970s. Doris then began working with the ground entertainment. She works year round recruiting the many genres of music seen at several venues around the grounds. Doris particularly enjoys the opportunity to meet people from all directions. She hopes to continue volunteering for Threshers for a long time.

### Gary LaForce

Though Gary's occupation is in the wireless tech industry and has been a volunteer fireman for Boone County for 25 years, he has been able to volunteer his time and talents as a year round, behind the scenes volunteer at Old Threshers.

His first visit to Threshers was with his father when he was 5 months old. He started volunteering in 1982 at the age of 10 and has not missed a Reunion since. To quote him, "I pretty much do whatever Larry Anderson and Terry McWilliams asks me to do".

Gary has for years helped as a museum coordinator, helped on the ground train, Red Power Round Up, Museum A gazebo construction, weather station and many more areas at Midwest Old Threshers. Gary was born and raised in Hallsville, MO and Mexico, MO. He and his wife, Amy, live in Hallsville and have three children.

# Seasons Greetings

from Midwest  Old Threshers

Terry John Al

Bob G · George Bob M

Julie Kat Lea

Alan Bob G Chris

Kirsten Larry DC

Bob W Dan

Gregg Larry

Ron Ralph

Larry

Rich Jeremy

JOY