

Threshers Chaff

Midwest Old Threshers Association
Mount Pleasant, Iowa

Volume 41, Number 1

Spring 2015

OT Begins 2015 Season with a Full Staff

Midwest Old Threshers is up and running with a full staff. Kat Zeglen has been hired on as administrative assistant and John Dunnegan will be responsible for Public Relations and Marketing.

Dunnegan comes with an extensive background in radio and marketing and will be working closely with Threshers CEO, Terry McWilliams. "I am excited! Old threshers has always been a must attend event for my family; a pioneer log village, old west town, museums, trains, trolleys, tractors along with nightly world class entertainment. I want to share the excitement. I've always felt that Old Threshers is a family vacation in Iowa's backyard." said John.

Kat has a bachelor's degree in communications, and an associate's degree in nursing, and will be a great addition to the Threshers team. She and her husband Rob, owner of Zeglen Construction, reside in Olds with their son Rhett. Rhett is an eighth grader at Mt. Pleasant Schools. John and his wife Dawn, who is employed with Iowa Wesleyan College, live near Yarmouth with children Patrick & Eileen. Their daughter Hillary, of Hampton Virginia is a 2011 graduate of Iowa Wesleyan.



Kat Zeglen, left, and John Dunnegan recently joined the Old Threshers staff.

OT Hosts Alive After 5, Announces Entertainment

Midwest Old Threshers staff and Board of Directors hosted the March Mt. Pleasant Chamber Alive After 5 event with the help of Main Street Cinemas.

Almost every seat was filled and guests stood at the back of the theatre to hear the entertainment line-up for the 2015 Reunion. Video Production Services compiled video footage of the country music stars appearing at the Old Threshers Reunion this year. The video was broadcast on the movie screen and received applause as each act was announced. Check out page 4 to see who is coming.

In addition to the KILJ Grandstand Stage, musical entertainment abounds through out the grounds from the North Village to the Log Village. Best of all, the cost is included with the price of admission!

Tickets for reserved seats in the Grandstand are on sale now at the Old Threshers office or by calling 319-385-8937. An adult five-day admission is \$20 if bought by May 31st, \$30 beginning June 1st so get yours now! Veteran's one-day admission on Thursday is \$10.00. FFA and 4-H members get in for \$10 any day of the Reunion. Be sure to wear your FFA or 4-H t-shirt. Kids 10 and under are free.



Mt. Pleasant Chamber Members fill the theatre at Main Street Cinemas on March 11th in anticipation of Old Threshers announcing the entertainment line-up for the 2015 Reunion.

Donations to Foundation Benefit Projects at OT

Spring is about to “spring” into action here at Midwest Old Threshers. Campers are already reserving their camp spots for the 2015 Reunion; tickets to the grandstand entertainment will go on sale once the performers are announced mid-March. Plans are already being made for steam school, the swap meet, the Busey Doll Event and school tours – all of which take place in May.



Speaking of school tours, Old Threshers hosts more than 1,000 students, grades 4-6 throughout the month of May. The school tour program gives us the opportunity to teach the younger generation and nurture an appreciation for our agricultural heritage. These students get a snapshot of what can be seen and done at the annual Old Threshers Reunion; hopefully, they will share this experience with their parents and encourage the family to come back to the Reunion. During the 2014 Reunion, the Foundation was able to raise over \$9,000 toward the school tour program by raffling a signed guitar, donated by Leroy and Gladys Van Dyke, during the Country Gold evening concert. The guitar was then presented to Nella Thomas, a Mt. Pleasant native who performed with Country Gold that evening as a special guest.

We thank all of you who have supported the Old Threshers Foundation with your charitable contributions throughout the years, last year's net income of \$80,694.62 was the largest amount of earnings in our Foundation's history. This amount was transferred from the Foundation following our annual meeting in November to Midwest Old Threshers for their financial support in 2015. Only the earnings are transferred; the principal amount of your contributions remains invested in the permanent endowment.

Providing this financial support to Midwest Old Threshers is the sole purpose of the Foundation. Since it was founded in 1986, the Foundation has transferred over ONE MILLION in earnings from its permanent endowment to Midwest Old Threshers. These earnings represent the interest and dividends received from our trust account plus rental payments received from the Illinois farm and earnings received from the Granaman Trust, both of which were bequeathed to the Foundation.

In recent years the Foundation earnings have contributed toward the construction of the new Welcome Center, construction of the restroom/shower facility in the Log Village, construction of the gas engine and traction steam headquarter buildings, trolley track maintenance, additional electrical service in the campground and the new museum display, the final one designed by Lennis Moore, for cars and trucks.

Donors to the Old Threshers Foundation now have a new option to contribute to specific immediate financial needs or special projects at Midwest Old Threshers. With the creation of the pass through account, money can now be designated for specific needs and immediately be passed on to Old Threshers. In addition to the \$80,000+ in earnings given to Midwest Old Threshers this past year, an additional \$125,000+ has been given to them through the pass through account for specific purposes; examples include the Mount Pleasant Festival of Lights, Printers' Hall, Drive a Tractor, the trolley, the carousel, school tours and the new museum display for cars and trucks.

All gifts to the Old Threshers Foundation, either as a long-term investment in the permanent endowment or as a short-term investment in the new pass through account, qualify as charitable contributions to a non profit 501(c) (3) organization for Federal income, estate and gift tax purposes. We are always appreciative of any gifts received, whether in the form of cash, stocks or deferred giving. If you have any questions or need additional information about any of these options, please contact me at the Midwest Old Threshers office 319-385-8937 or e-mail offoundation@oldthreshers.org.

Alan D. Huisinga, Executive Director

Pace Family Tree Rooted in Massey Harris

Editor's Note: This is part two of a series showcasing four families who own Massey-Harris tractors.

Tim and Connie Pace live on their family's Century Farm in Muscatine. Tim's grandfather, Earnest, was a sales agent for the Massey-Harris Company based in Muscatine. Earnest's clientele were southeast Iowa farmers. Little did he know, he would start a loyal following within his own family.

Though the first tractor used on the family farm was a 1915 Wallis Cub Jr, over the years their collection grew to include 35 Massey-Harris in various stages of disrepair. Out of those 35, there are only three that don't run.

With that many tractors, it's important that they run. "If you have to get to a tractor toward the back, all the others have to be moved in order to get it out," says Tim.

As Earnest's sales route took him further and further from home, he acquired tractors that had been abandoned and his collection grew in number and maker. Other manufactures include McCormick Deering, Case, Oliver, Rumley, Oliver Hart-Parr and Ford.

Earnest's son, and Tim's father, Harold, worked the family farm with two Massey-Harris General Purpose tractors and a Wallis 1220. Tim remembers his dad demonstrating a 4WD Massey-Harris with a Pulverator plow. The unique plow was manufactured by General



Konnie and Tim Pace (Back) and Harold and Barb Pace pose with one of their 35 Massey-Harris tractors. Massey-Harris will be featured at the 2015 Reunion.

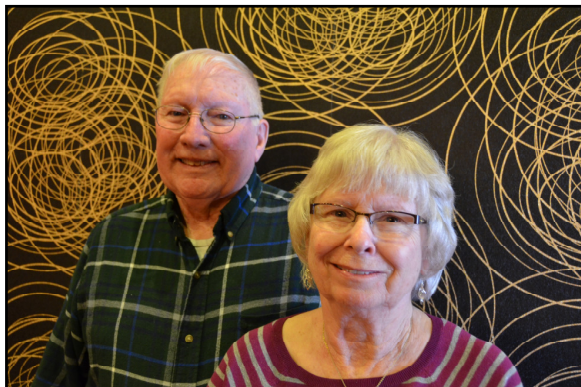
Implement Company and sold by Massey-Harris.

The Pace family started exhibiting at Old Threshers in 1981.

They also take part in the Massey-Harris Days Reunion and have hosted the event at their farm in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2008. People come from all over the world and 12 states to attend the event.

The Pace's enjoy attending tractor shows and say they enjoy making friends with people no matter what type of tractor they collect.

Tullers Named 2015 Harvest Parade Marshals



Louis and Doris Tuller, Mt Pleasant, are this year's Harvest Parade Marshals. Louis retired last November after 36 years on the Old Threshers Board of Directors. He was in charge of the Gas Engine Area.

"The Midwest Old Threshers Board of Directors felt it was appropriate to ask Louis and Doris to serve in that capacity after 36 years of service to the Association," said CEO Terry McWilliams.

The Harvest Parade will be Wednesday, September 2nd at 3:30pm. The route will be as it was last year taking participants down Washington Street.

Campground Opens August 22nd

RESERVED CAMP SITES AVAILABLE

Call 319-385-8937 to make your reservation!

Performing on the Grandstand Stage



Reserved Seats on sale now!

Call 319-385-8937 to order.

Don't forget, if you buy your 5-day admission tickets by May 31st they are only \$20.

RESTORATION CORNER

After 35 Years, 1914 20HP Advance Roars Back to Life



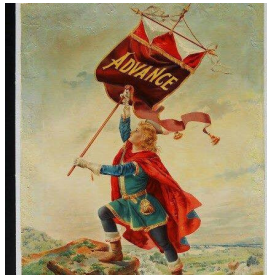
Aaron Bixler's 1914 20HP rear mount Advance powers the separator at the 2014 Old Threshers Reunion.

Aaron Bixler made his first visit to an Old Threshers Reunion in 1985 as a young, impressionable 3-year-old. By the time he was five, the Midwest Central Railroad had him hooked. As he grew older, his interests gradually migrated to the traction steam area.

It was only a matter of time before Aaron acquired a traction steam engine of his own. In 2006, while home on leave from his Tour of Duty in Iraq, he bought a 20-75 double cylinder Nichols and Shepard. Restoration included building new, riveted coal boxes, taking off a homemade operator platform and doing some machine work to the valve gear.

In the fall of 2013, he discovered an 1894 13HP Nichols and Shepard in Monticello, Iowa. After he found a buyer for his first engine he was able to acquire the 13HP that had spent many years in a barn. He repainted the engine, made a new smokestack and had the missing top smoke stack casting made. A new rear platform,

water and coal box, proper decals for the boxes, and machine work on the valve gear rounded out the restoration work.



In October of 2014, a friend, Chris Jowwett, told him about a 1914 20HP rear mount or "corner bracket" Advance he knew was for sale in Nevada, Missouri owned by the late Lyle Onckelet. Aaron and Chris went down there armed with an ultrasound thickness

tester. Having a viable boiler would be key to deciding whether or not to buy the engine.

The engine was last restored in 1975 and sat untouched for 35 years. As luck would have it, the boiler was in excellent shape. There was still a lot of work to be done, but Aaron knew he wanted the engine. The two returned to Odessa to participate in the Jowwett Saw Day.

After three months of hard thinking, and finding someone to buy his 13HP Nichols and Shepard, Aaron made a deal. Armed with a tractor to pull the Advance off the hill, and a lowboy to

haul the engine away, Aaron headed back to Nevada, Missouri.

"In the early morning hours one day in mid-February, Gary Flemming, Chris Jowwett and I loaded my new engine on to Gary's lowboy and hauled it back to David Jowwett's shop in Odessa, Missouri," recalls Aaron. They started disassembling some of the engine parts that afternoon.

"I made several trips to Jowwett's shop over the course of the spring to work on it," said Aaron. "Jowwetts made a new front pedestal brace, machined the governor, inspected the cylinder rings and piston and a few other odds and ends while I was working on other engine parts back home in Iowa."

Aaron made many trips to Odessa to get the engine in operating condition. He re-piped the engine, had new grates made and removed the canopy. Later that spring he fired it for the first time. It ran better than what they had expected. The engine was then hauled to the Lathrop, Missouri steam show for the weekend before being hauled back to Aaron's shop north of Mt. Pleasant.

Work continued once he got the engine home. The list included a new

Continued on page 7



Aaron and his daughters, Abigail and Aicia at the 2014 Old Threshers Reunion.

Buy a Raffle Ticket and a Chance to Win a Tractor

\$1.00 COULD
WIN THIS TRACTOR

1951 WD ALLIS CHALMERS

Drawing held September 7th, 2015 - 9:00 AM
at Tractor Land during the Old Threshers Reunion
need not be present to win
Supports School Tours For more info call: 319-385-8937

The Midwest Old Threshers Foundation is having a raffle to benefit the Old Threshers School Tour Program. Raffle tickets are \$1 and will enter you to win a 1951 WD Allis Chalmers.

The drawing will be held at 9AM September 7th at the Richard E. Oetken Tractor Headquarters building. You need not be present to win.

Tickets will go on sale April 1 and are available at the Old Threshers Office and from any Old Threshers Foundation Board member.

At the 2014 Reunion, the Foundation auctioned off an autographed guitar and was able to raise \$9,000 for the School Tour Program.

For more information call Alan Husinga at the Old Threshers office 319-385-8937.

Busy Memorial Weekend Planned

For many, Memorial Weekend is the kick-off to summer. Here at Old Threshers the grounds spring to life with a lot of activity.

Friday and Saturday, May 22 and 23, is the Greater Iowa Swap Meet and Flea Market. McMillan Park will be filled with vendors selling everything from glassware to tractor parts. There will be a Gun Show in the Antique Car Building Friday through Sunday. Vendor spaces are still available.

Don't miss the 13th Annual Bussey Doll Event Saturday, May 23. Sponsored by Midwest Old Threshers and the Hawkeye Doll Club of Iowa. This year's theme is "Appreciating the Past, Embracing the Future." The registration fee is \$55 and includes lunch, a souvenir gift and more.

Memorial Weekend also means extended hours for the Heritage Museums. Old Threshers will be open seven days a week starting Saturday, May 23. Perfect opportunity to come in and buy your five-day admissions at a discount!

As the days grow longer and warmer so does the chore list around Old Threshers. Many areas have work weekends planned throughout the summer. If you are interested in volunteering but find you are unable to volunteer during the Reunion there are plenty of opportunities through out the year. Our area directors and coordinators work hard for several weeks to make sure to offer a great experience to our visitors no only during the five-day Reunion but other times of the year as well.

For more information on any of the events at Old Threshers or volunteering, be sure to check out the website or call the office at 319-385-8937.



Plans Continue for New Exhibit in Museum B

In February of 2014, Lennis Moore took pen to paper and as he is known to do, created a masterpiece. No, it isn't artwork to hang on a wall, but rather a conceptual drawing of a new exhibit for Heritage Museum B.

The exhibit showcases a full-service gas station, rural and small town volunteer fire departments and the evolution of the trucking industry.

The fire house in the North Village housed valuable antique fire equipment that was only seen by the public when the doors were open during the five days of the Reunion.

Last year it was determined the structure was a safety hazard and was taken down. The hose carts are now in the Old Threshers Shop being repainted as we wait for the weather to warm up enabling work to begin in the Museum.

Grant money and private



Larry Anderson paints the wheel of a firehose cart that will eventually be on display in the new exhibit in Museum B.

donations as well as financial support from the Old Threshers Foundation and Lennis' memorial will ensure Lennis' vision becomes a reality.

Ribbon Cutting is scheduled for the 2015 Old Threshers Reunion. More details will follow.

Advance cont. from page 5

rear platform, three brand new riveted water tanks and head castings, a new governor pulley, three new step castings and side platform, new smoke box door handles, new marsh reverse gear guard casting, new canopy and braces, a rebuilt water pump, new babbit bearings in the reverse gear, re-poured the crankpin bearing, machined the crank pin, found a gear oil box and cylinder cock valve on eBay, new toolbox, new seat spring and operator seat and castings, lots of cleaning of bearings, new jacket band castings and list goes on.

Last winter after much debating with himself over how far he wanted to go make the engine look as original as possible, he decided it just wasn't complete without a boiler jacket. On a Sunday morning Aaron and his daughter Aicia headed out to Lowe's to pick up the wood that would be used as the insulation under the jacket,

so after a few nights of cutting and fitting, the boiler was wrapped with wood and he began making craft paper patterns to use as a templates for the sheet metal. The sheet metal has been painted a dark gray and will have new brass bands to hold it on. Aaron plans to finish it off with the Advance gold leaf lettering on the side.

Aaron works full time for the National Guard as a heavy truck mechanic. Visitors to the Reunion can see Aaron and his engine threshing, plowing and sawing. Look for Aaron and his Advance in the Traction Steam Area at the 2015 Old Threshers Reunion.

Editor's Note: If you have a restoration story to share please contact Old Threshers at info@oldthreshers.org or call us at 319-385-8937.



(Above) Aaron's latest project is making a jacket for the Advance. The pieces of wood act as insulation. After the sheet metal is cut and fitted it was painted a dark gray. (Below) The brass bands keep it in place.



2015 CALENDAR

- April 17-19—Theatre Seminar
- April 27—First day of School Tours
- May 2-3—Steam School
- May 22-24—Gun Show
- May 22-23—Greater Iowa Swap Meet and Collectibles Show
- May 23—Busey Doll Event
- May 25—Memorial Day—Heritage Museums Open for the Season
- June 7-10—WMT Tractor Ride
- June 11-14—Ladies of Letter Press
- July 4— Mt. Pleasant Community 4th of July Celebration
- July 14-20—Henry County Fair
- July 24-25—Summer Theatre Play "The Giggling Gossip"
- August 7-9—Western Illinois Threshers
- August 22—Campground Opens
- September 2—Harvest Day Parade
- September 3-7—2015 Old Threshers Reunion
- September 17-19—Printers' Fair
- October 8-10, 15-17, 22-24, 29-31—Thrashers House of Terror
- October 9-10, 16-17, 23-24—Midwest Haunted Rails
- November 14—OT Annual Meeting
- November 19-22, 26-29, 3-6, 10-13, 17-20, 24-31—Festival of Lights

2015 School Tours



The 2015 School Tour season starts early this year! April 27 marks the first day. If you are interested in helping call the Old Threshers office 319-385-8937

Call for Recipes

It's time to gather recipes for the

17th Edition

Midwest Old Threshers Cookbook!

Categories include but are not limited to:

Cooking Over and Open Fire

Cooking for the Masses

One-Pot Meals

Game Meat

Vegetarian

Gluten Free

Appetizers

Main Dish

Desserts

Soups/Stews



Deadline
May 1st, 2015

Submit via email admin@oldthreshers.org
Or mail to 405 E Threshers Rd.,
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

Obituaries

Glenn D. Klyn

Glenn D. Klyn, 81, of Ottumwa, died November 28, 2014, at Hospice House in Ottumwa.

He was born January 29, 1933 in Albia, to Marion and Bessie Theurer Klyn. He married Evelyn Antolik on December 21, 1957, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Ottumwa.

A 1951 graduate of Eddyville High School, Glenn served in the U.S. Navy from 1952 to 1956. He worked for 31 years for Lund International, retiring in 1990.

He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Glenn enjoyed playing old time fiddle music and he performed at the Old Threshers Reunion for 38 years, Iowa State Fair, at care centers, dances and many festivals. He taught a fiddling camp for children.

Surviving is his wife, Evelyn; a daughter, Sherrie (Ron) Roberts of Ottumwa; a son, David (Teresa) Klyn of Ottumwa; 5 grandchildren, David Roberts, Dan (Cassadie) Roberts, Dana (Cole) Spree, Justin (Tricia) Klyn, Courtney Klyn

(fiancé Chris Cordray); two great-grandchildren, Carson Roberts and Brooklyn Roberts; and a sister, Sandra Vitko of Albia.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Lloyd and Max Klyn and a sister, Thelma Hervey.

Funeral services at Trinity Lutheran Church with Rev. Kevin Saylor officiating. Burial was in Shaul Cemetery with military services conducted by O.B. Nelson Post #3 American Legion and Walter B. Schafer Post #775 Veterans of Foreign Wars.

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Martha A. Hayes

Martha A. Hayes, 85, of Mount Pleasant, died December 5, 2014, at Park Place Elder Living in Mount Pleasant as a result of complications following an abdominal infection that began in September.

Martha was born in Mount Pleasant on October 31, 1929. After graduating from Mount Pleasant High School in 1946 she began at Iowa Wesleyan College, then transferred to the University of Iowa where she graduated in 1951 with a degree in Psychology and her teaching credentials.

She began as a kindergarten and first grade school teacher in Rockford Ill, teaching from 1951-1954. She subsequently taught in Torrance, California (1954-1958) and Racine, Wisc, before entering into the book publishing business, rising to an editor of elementary school books. For 16 years, she was an Executive Editor for Harper & Row Publishing Company in New York. During her time in New York, Martha also did free-lance work as an editor. She lived in Boston, Chicago and then New York City before retiring in 1986 and returning to Mount Pleasant.

She's been an active member of the Mount Pleasant community and state of Iowa for the last 20+ years. Her passion was the preservation of history while supporting development of the local communities and was a founding member of the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance, now Preservation Iowa, serving on its board for the 21 years and its treasurer until 2010. She served as the institutional memory for many throughout the state, and especially in Mount Pleasant. At the time of her death she was a life trustee of the Iowa Wesleyan College Board of Trustees, serving since 1969. Martha served on the City of Mount Pleasant Public Library Board and as a member and chairman of the Mt. Pleasant Historic Preservation Commission. She was a founding member of the Henry County Heritage Trust, and served as its chairman. Since 1995, she served as the Collections Supervisor and Manager for the Theater Museum, part of Midwest Old Threshers. She also volunteered in other areas for Midwest Old Threshers.

Martha joined Mt. Pleasant Evening Rotary Club in 1988. She was a Past

President, a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow and served as the Secretary of the Cub for many years. Martha also served as Secretary for the Mt. Pleasant Chapter of the Southeast Iowa Symphony Orchestra. Martha was a member and Past President of the Henry County Health Center Auxiliary. She served as the Manager of the hospital's gift shop from 1990 to 2004 and was Co-Manager from 2004 until her death. She made yearly trips to market for the purpose of purchasing inventory for the shop. Her activity with the Auxiliary resulted in being named as one of the Iowa Hospital Associations Shining Stars for 2012. She followed her mother's footsteps by belonging to both the Wednesday Club and Southside Club. A Member of the Mt. Pleasant Area Alliance (formerly Mt. Pleasant Chamber of Commerce), Martha was named Citizen of the Year by the Mt. Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce.

For six years since its inception in 2002, Martha served on the Board of Main Street Mt. Pleasant. For 12 years, Martha has been the chairperson of Main Street's Design Committee, and was named Main Street's Volunteer of the Year. Since 1996, Martha was an Executive Board Member of the Friends of the Harlan Lincoln House in Mt. Pleasant. She had been a member of P.E.O. Chapter Original A since 1989. In 2013, she received the DAR Community Service Award, being nominated by the chapter to which she belonged, the James Harlan Chapter. She was a member of the Alumnae Club of the Pi Beta Phi Sorority, the Mount Pleasant Women's Club, the Coterie Club and the First United Methodist Church of Mt. Pleasant.

She is survived by her sister Carol of Corona, Calif., and sister-in-law Cora Hayes of Des Moines; nine nephews: Michael (Lorrie) Hayes of Des Moines, Andy (Isabelle) Hayes of Libertyville Ill., John Hayes of Miami FL, Bill Hayes of Columbus, OH, Jeff (Beverly) Hayes of Vernon Hills Ill., Steve Hayes of Torrance Calif., Bob (Krista) Hayes of Redondo Beach Calif., Dave Egli of Corona, Calif., and Stuart Egli of Rancho Cucamonga Calif., two nieces: Cathy Egli of San Francisco, Calif., and Kris Hayes of Redondo Beach Calif., and two Mount Pleasant native cousins, Jo Ann (Hayes) Farrell of Austin Texas, and Jan (Hayes) Dougherty of Woodbury Minn. She also is

survived by eight grand-nephews, six grand-nieces, four grand-grand nephews and six grand-grand nieces, with two more on the way. She was preceded in death by her parents, Columbus and Beulah (Billingsley) Hayes, brothers, Edward and Warren, and uncle and aunt, Ernie and Ruth Hayes.

Those considering an expression of sympathy may direct memorials to the family for a later named designation. On-line condolences may be directed to www.kimzeyfuneralhome.com

Clifford J. Henderson

Clifford J. Henderson of Marion died in St. Luke's hospice on December 16, 2014. Cliff was born January 19, 1925, to John Clifford and Hazel Smola Henderson on the family farm near Central City. Cliff attended the rural Red School, and high school in Central City. Cliff served in the Navy during WWII aboard the Nehenta Bay from October 1943 until May 1946. He enjoyed an Honor Flight to Washington D.C. accompanied by his son-in-law, Walt Stephenson in September 2010.

He married Delores Hulbert on May 24, 1947 at the Little Brown Church. Cliff and Delores's children are Janet (Larry) Lacy, Darrell (Anna) Henderson, and Carolyn (Walt) Stephenson. Grandchildren are Terri (Ed) Connelly, Kevin Henderson, Josh Lacy, Sara Stephenson (Patrick McQuillan), Matthew (Meghan) Stephenson, and Ian Stephenson. He cherished his great-grandchildren: Christopher Martin, Graham Stephenson, and Patrick Truman McQuillan.

Cliff retired from the Marion Post Office and was a Past Master of Trojan Lodge #548 of Marion, a member of the Linn County Fair Board (20 years) and the Linn County 4-H Horse Committee (25 yrs), a founding member of the Mid-Iowa Driving Club, a long-time member and past president of the Broken Bit Saddle Club. Cliff and his team of horses Babe and Dolly (the 'girls') were common sights at weddings, Cedar Rapids Christmas Parades, Marion's Swamp Fox festivals, and Mt. Pleasants Old Thresher's Reunion. Cliff was honored as an "Old Thresher" and was the elder horseman at the annual Old Thresher's Reunion.

Over the years Cliff and his wife Delores traveled many miles in their

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covered wagon with good friends, from Niagara Falls across the northern Great Plains to the mountains of Colorado. Cliff never traveled anywhere that he didn't find someone he knew.

Cliff was preceded in death by his wife of nearly 60 years Delores, four sisters Gladys Vacek, Charlotte Wilson, Verda Sweet, and infant sister Delores, and brothers Emery Henderson and Melvin Henderson. Survived by his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and brother LaVern (Celia) Henderson and sister-in-law Carol Henderson, brother-in-law Don (Bonnie) Hulbert, and many beloved nieces and nephews, and extended family and friends.

In place of flowers, memorials would be appreciated to St. Luke's Hospice, Linn County 4-H Foundation, Old Threshers Reunion Foundation, or a charity of choice.

Leroy R. McClure

Leroy R. McClure, 66, of Colchester passed away, Dec. 23, 2014, in rural Colchester.

He was born March 1, 1948, in Macomb to Ralph Neal and Marie Sylvia Randall McClure; they both preceded him in death.

Surviving to mourn his passing are fiancée Leanna Petty of Colchester; son Marshall McClure and significant other Malinda Harris of Colchester, with their children Madison and Makayla McClure; daughter Michelle McClure and significant other Aaron Bixler of Colchester; additional immediate family, James and Heather Petty with their children Riley Williams, Denver, Isabella and Dallas Petty, Shawn Hilton and significant other Debbie Clem with his children Logan, Xavier, and Joslyn Hilton; sister Helen and John Broadhead of Colchester; and many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

Leroy resided his entire life on the McClure family farm outside of Colchester. Leroy served in the U.S. Army receiving honorable discharge for hardship to return to help with farming.

He had lifelong involvement in Midwest Old Threshers, serving at one time as a board member, as well as involvement with North East Missouri Old Threshers in Shelbina, Mo.

It was evident to all of those who knew him that Leroy truly enjoyed his work and was incredibly dedicated to it. Much of his life he spent farming, running his own business, McClure Fertilizer and Equipment, and later McClure Tiling and

Bulldozing. Hard work was his way of life. Leroy enjoyed his steam engine hobby more than anything, and the vast circle of friends he has because of his involvement with steam engines and our agricultural heritage. He looked forward to yearly threshing bees, especially one being held on the family farm for many years. Operating his steam powered sawmill was always a great love of his. Some of his fondest memories came from picnics held for those who helped him in keeping the McClure traditions alive.

Leroy was a strong, upstanding well respected man, who always had a great willingness to help others, often with his unique sense of humor shining through. Though his words may have been few, those he held nearest and dearest always knew his heart was an extremely benevolent one, in his own quiet way. Leroy expressed compassion, devotion, and love that in no greater heart can be found.

Memorial will be to North East Missouri Old Threshers. Condolences may be expressed to the family at jonesmortuaryfh.com.

Laine R Dennison

Laine R. Dennison, 51, of Mt Pleasant, formerly of Lisbon, died Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at the Great River Hospice House in West Burlington.

Laine was born May 17, 1963, in Dallas, Texas. He was the son of Paul L. and Joyce Elaine (nee Van Horn) Dennison. He received his early education at schools in Knoxville. The family moved to Mt. Pleasant where Laine graduated from Mt. Pleasant Community High School in 1981. He toured a year with the Up with People group. He returned and studied two years at Iowa Wesleyan College.

Laine was a resident of Lisbon since 1998. For many years, he was the owner and bondsman for the Second Chance Bail Bonds Company in Cedar Rapids. Laine was a member of First United Methodist Church in Mt. Pleasant and a former member of the Lisbon United Methodist Church.

Those thankful for sharing in Laine's life include his parents of Mt. Pleasant; a son, Kristopher Dennison of Lisbon and a daughter Kadie Dennison of Mt. Pleasant; a sister, Lisa Lagos of Centreville, VA; a nephew, Mitchell Lagos and 2 nieces, Morgan and Madison Lagos of Centreville. Laine's grandparents precede him in death.

Those considering an expression may direct memorials to the family for a charity to be designated at a later date. Online condolences may be directed to www.kimzeyfuneralhome.com

George "Buddy" Kiews

George "Buddy" Edwin Kiews, age 85, formally of Packwood, passed away February 4, 2015, at Good Samaritan Society -Otumwa.

Buddy was born July 25, 1929 to William C. and Bula Pearl (Harrison) Kiews in Packwood, IA.

Buddy served in the US Army during the Korean War. He lived all his life in Packwood and was a farmer. "Buddy" was a member of American Legion and Draft Horse Association. Every year he looked forward to volunteering at Old Threshers.

He is survived by one brother, Marvin Kiews of Batavia; one sister, Doris Hicks of Rose Hill; and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Bula Kiews; and one great niece, Molly Dugger.

Memorials can be made to Old Threshers Reunion or American Cancer Society. Cards and memorials can be mailed to: Bill Kiews, 1034 148th Street, Batavia, IA 52533.

Linda Johnson

Linda Johnson, 66, of Mt. Pleasant, passed away February 20, at Pleasant Manor Care Center.

Born February 10, 1949, in Mt. Pleasant, Linda Jeanne was the daughter of Robert Bruce and Mildred (Vermace) Young, Sr. She was a graduate of Mt. Pleasant High School. Following her high school graduation, she attended the Young Beauty School in Burlington. Upon completing her training she styled the hair of family and friends. On August 24, 2002, she married Harry Lee Johnson in Mt. Union. He survives.

From 1969 until 1988 she lived in Council Bluffs and worked for the Silvey Refrigerated Trucking Company. Upon her return to Mt. Pleasant, she became a secretary in the Safety Department for the Wal-Mart Transportation Division. She retired from that position in 2008.

Linda was a camping enthusiast. She volunteered at the Midwest Old Threshers campground by assisting visitors to their camp sites. Linda was an avid Iowa Hawkeyes

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fan. She enjoyed NASCAR races and was a Tony Stewart fan. Linda never met a stranger and was truly a friend to all who met her. She will be greatly missed by her family, many friends and her dog, Sugar.

Linda is survived by her husband, Harry of Mt. Pleasant; a sister-in-law, Kay Young of Mt. Pleasant; two nephews, Steven C. Young of West Burlington, and Philip B. Young of Burlington; a niece, Sara E. Young of Spring Green, WI; three nieces, Becky Higdon of Springville, Robin Kovarik of Marion, and Tammy Jordan of Marion; two step-sons, Rodney J. Johnson of Burlington, and Timothy L. Johnson of Mt. Pleasant; two step-grandchildren, Josie Johnson and Lucas Johnson, both of Mt. Pleasant; two great nieces, Abby Young and Mariah Young both of West Burlington; and by a great nephew, David Young of San Francisco, CA.

Preceding Linda in death were her parents; grandparents; a brother, Robert Bruce Young; a sister, Kaye Irene Young; and a nephew, Bobby Higdon.

Memorials have been established to Children's Miracle Network. On line condolences may be directed to www.olsonpowell.com

Richard Mabeus

Richard Walter Mabeus, 95, of Burlington, and formerly of Wever, passed away Feb. 20, 2015 at the Great River Hospice House in West Burlington.

He was born on Aug. 20, 1919 in Burlington, to Herman and Hilda Spitzmiller Mabeus. On Nov. 25, 1944 he married Orpha P. Tish in Newton and she passed away on Aug. 16, 2004. Richard was a lifelong farmer. He enjoyed bowling, going to farm auctions, collecting antique tractors and playing hardball in his younger years. Richard also served in the US Army during WWII.

Survivors include four sons, Dean (Sue) Mabeus, Leroy (Kathy) Mabeus, Wayne (Bette) Mabeus and Harry (Sandra) Mabeus, all of Wever; eight grandchildren, Mike Mabeus, Jeff Mabeus, Ann Klesner, Jennifer Mabeus-Geers, Lisa Christy, Kelley Mabeus, Kristin Mabeus and Lydia Mabeus; nine great grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife and three brothers, Howard,

Ralph and Earl.

A memorial has been established for Great River Hospice House or Denmark Congregational United Church of Christ. Online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

John C. Shepherd

John Charles Shepherd, 89, of Bloomfield, died February 22, at the Ottumwa Hospice House. He was born May 18, 1925 in Davis County, Iowa to William Carol and Nellie Williams Shepherd. He married Nellie Faye "Bonnie" Donaldson September 14, 1946 in Bloomfield. John was a lifetime resident of Davis County. He owned Shepherd's Garage in Drakesville for several years and could fix anything with an engine. His hobbies included restoring antique cars and building steam engines. John liked to go to the Old Threshers Reunion in Mount Pleasant and would show the steam engine that he built. He never met a stranger and never forgot a face. John served on the Davis County Board of Supervisors for a term in the 1980s and was a 50-year-member of the Masonic Lodge.

He is survived by his wife; son, Michael Shepherd of Bloomfield; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Judy Shepherd; four brothers, Claude, Earl, Ernest "Red" Shepherd, Finley Fenton; and four sisters, Alice Crowe, Beulah Coop, Dora Wigglesworth, and Clara Riely.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established to the Ottumwa Hospice House.

John J. Riley

John J. Riley, 78, of Mt. Pleasant, died February 23, at the University of Arizona Medical Center, South Campus in Tucson, AZ.

John Junior Riley was born January 11, 1937 in Jefferson County, Iowa. He was the son of John Wilbur and Mary Frances (nee Messer) Riley. He graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School. On May 29, 1960, he was united in marriage to Mary Irene Sutton at the First Methodist Church in Maquoketa. They are the parents of two sons, Keith D. Riley of Denver, CO and Dale E. (Jayne) Riley of Brazil, IN.

John was veteran of the United States

Army. He was inducted on March 12, 1957 at Ft. Des Moines. He was a combat Engineer with Company C of the 317th Engineering Battalion, serving 1 1/2 years in Germany. He was honorable discharged on March 7, 1959 at Ft. Sheridan, IL and transferred to the US Army Reserves.

John was the general manger of the Spahn & Rose Lumber Company and Ready Mix plant of 6 1/2 years in Maxwell, IA and was the Treasurer of the Maxwell Lion's Club for 4 years. In 1967, John formed the John J. Riley Construction Company which he owned and operated for 17 years. He later worked for Midwest Old Threshers, working with Lennis Moore to construct many of the exhibits on the Old Threshers grounds.

John was also a licensed real estate agent with the Iris Realty Company of Mt. Pleasant. He served as the Chairman of the Board of the Southeast Iowa Board of Realtors for two years and as President of MCSWIDER, which was organized to assist the building trades class at Mt Pleasant Community High School.

John and his wife, Mary, were also the owners of the Henry County Abstract Company.

John enjoyed antiques and served on the Board of Directors of the Southeast Iowa Antique Car Club for four years. The family enjoyed many camping trips across the United States. John then became a world traveler, visiting Europe, Israel, Egypt, Greece, South America, Mexico, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand. John Enjoyed Golf and NASCAR, attending races at many of the race tracks. He enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his great grandchildren.

John is survived by his wife, Mary of Mt. Pleasant; his two sons, Keith and Dale; his sister, Mary Ellen Ruschill of Mt. Pleasant; four grandchildren, Katie, Beth, Lynn and Matthew; two step grandchildren, Ethan and Courtney and four great grandchildren, Patrick, Ayla, Gabriel and Donovan. He is preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Kenneth.

Those considering an expression of sympathy may direct memorials to the First Baptist Church or the Midwest Old Threshers Association.



2015 Souvenir Buttons are Here

The 2015 souvenir buttons are here and this year's color is purple! The button features Nelson Smith and his 1910 16HP Garr Scott. Anyone who buys their 5-day admission before the Reunion will receive one of the 2 1/4" buttons. Otherwise they are \$1. The 4" buttons are \$10.

Carolyn Sidebottom and Old Threshers will be publishing a new Button Collectors' Book in time for the 2015 Reunion. The book will be available at any souvenir stand.



Thank You Volunteers!

It takes 1,000s of volunteer hours to make Old Threshers what it is today. Whether it's School Tours, Swap Meet, Haunted Rails or the Reunion, Old Threshers would not be able to do it without your help!! Here are some group pictures from the 2014 Reunion.

If you would like to volunteer call 319-385-8937.

