



OT FOUNDATION FUNDS REPAIR BILL FOR 1779



Thanks to funding from the Old Threshers Foundation, car No. 1779 is getting a new pair of shoes.

Volunteers from the Trolley Area gathered recently to pull the trucks out from under the green, open-air car. The trucks, weighing more than 11,000

pounds each, will be delivered to the Gomaco Trolley Company in Ida Grove, IA, where they will be fitted with new, wider tires and break rigging.

The Gomaco Trolley Company is a manufacturer of vintage-style streetcars. The company has supplied replica-vintage streetcars to several transit systems in the US and has also restored and rebuilt authentic vintage streetcars for some systems. Established in 1982, Gomaco Trolley Company is a division of Gomaco Corporation, a major builder of equipment used in concrete paving.



The trucks were removed from the 1779 car so that they can be repaired by the Gomaco Trolley Company in Ida Grove, IA.

Continued on page 3

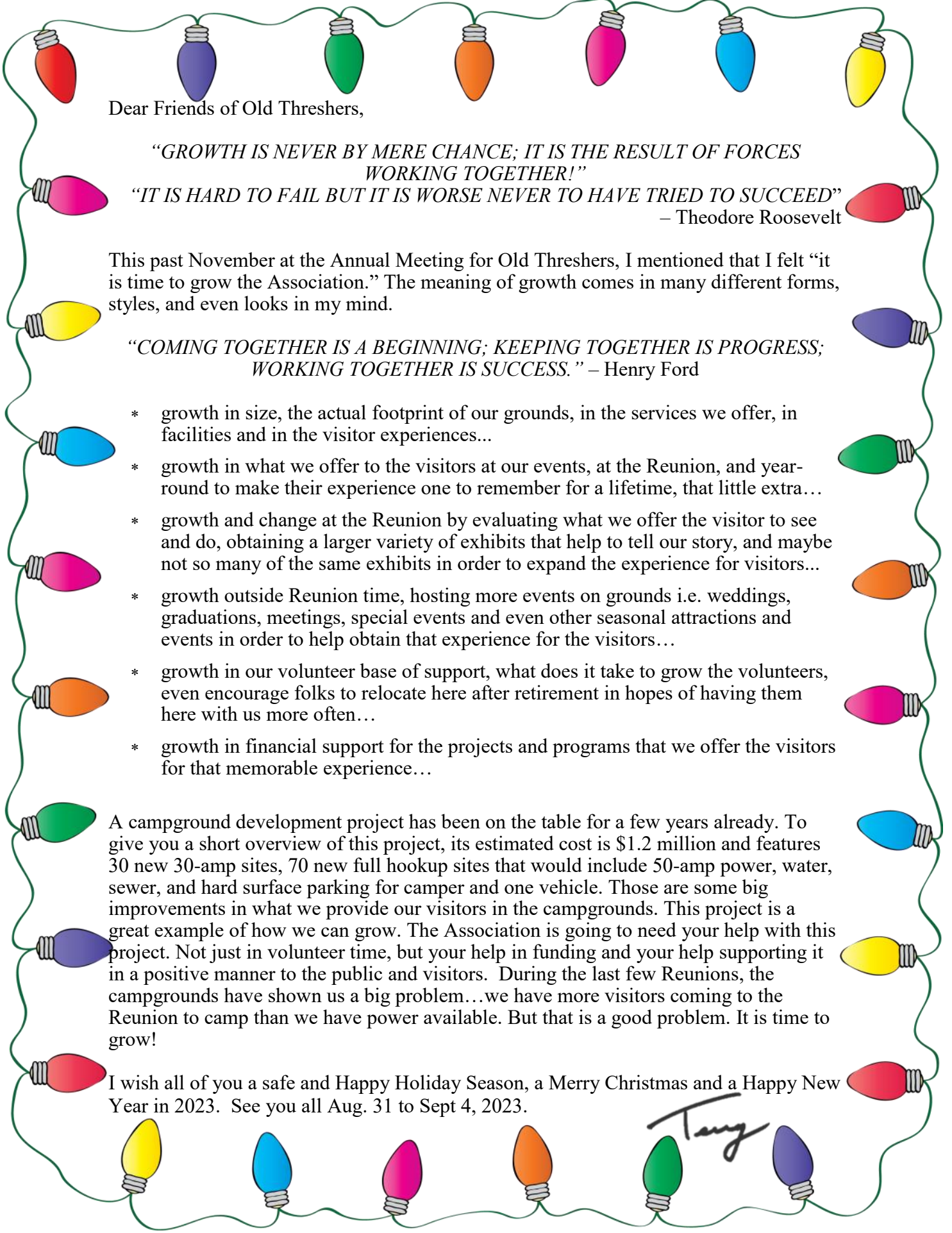
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OLD THRESHERS DONATES TO TOYS FOR TOTS



Midwest Old Settlers and Threshers Association Staff, Volunteers, and the Board of Directors worked together to raise toys for the Mt. Pleasant, Iowa Police Department Toy Drive. Pictured Left to Right are Kat Zeglen, Jared Walker, Keith Dugger, Grant Davidson, Julie Scott, Jacob Richtman, and Terry McWilliams CEO.



Dear Friends of Old Threshers,

“GROWTH IS NEVER BY MERE CHANCE; IT IS THE RESULT OF FORCES WORKING TOGETHER!”

“IT IS HARD TO FAIL BUT IT IS WORSE NEVER TO HAVE TRIED TO SUCCEED”
– Theodore Roosevelt

This past November at the Annual Meeting for Old Threshers, I mentioned that I felt “it is time to grow the Association.” The meaning of growth comes in many different forms, styles, and even looks in my mind.

“COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING; KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS; WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS.” – Henry Ford

- * growth in size, the actual footprint of our grounds, in the services we offer, in facilities and in the visitor experiences...
- * growth in what we offer to the visitors at our events, at the Reunion, and year-round to make their experience one to remember for a lifetime, that little extra...
- * growth and change at the Reunion by evaluating what we offer the visitor to see and do, obtaining a larger variety of exhibits that help to tell our story, and maybe not so many of the same exhibits in order to expand the experience for visitors...
- * growth outside Reunion time, hosting more events on grounds i.e. weddings, graduations, meetings, special events and even other seasonal attractions and events in order to help obtain that experience for the visitors...
- * growth in our volunteer base of support, what does it take to grow the volunteers, even encourage folks to relocate here after retirement in hopes of having them here with us more often...
- * growth in financial support for the projects and programs that we offer the visitors for that memorable experience...

A campground development project has been on the table for a few years already. To give you a short overview of this project, its estimated cost is \$1.2 million and features 30 new 30-amp sites, 70 new full hookup sites that would include 50-amp power, water, sewer, and hard surface parking for camper and one vehicle. Those are some big improvements in what we provide our visitors in the campgrounds. This project is a great example of how we can grow. The Association is going to need your help with this project. Not just in volunteer time, but your help in funding and your help supporting it in a positive manner to the public and visitors. During the last few Reunions, the campgrounds have shown us a big problem...we have more visitors coming to the Reunion to camp than we have power available. But that is a good problem. It is time to grow!

I wish all of you a safe and Happy Holiday Season, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in 2023. See you all Aug. 31 to Sept 4, 2023.

Tang

MOUNT PLEASANT FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

The Mount Pleasant Festival of Lights celebrates 10 years of lighting the way through the Midwest Old Threshers Campground. What started off as a small event with a little more than 60 displays has grown into a mile and a half journey of over 140 displays and 210 sponsors.

Open from mid-November thru New Year's Eve, the Festival of Lights offers a walk/run event its first two nights complete with trolley rides and a candle-lit experience in the Log Village. Horse-drawn carriage rides are the newest addition offered for two-nights usually in mid-December. Tickets sell out fast for this unique experience.

New in 2022 is the Avenue of Honour. A collection of lighted displays sponsored by those who wish to honor loved ones, children, community servants and military.

Santa will also be making some appearances at the Festival of Lights! He will be available to meet November 25th through 27th, and December 2nd through 4th, 9th through 11th, and 16th through 23rd for those who go through the lights.

In 2021, tickets sales indicated 7,000 vehicles went through the lights representing 73 Iowa counties and 35 states. The record for largest attendance was set in 2020 with 9,000 vehicles.



1779 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Established in 1982, Gomaco Trolley Company is a division of Gomaco Corporation, a major builder of equipment used in concrete paving. Founded in 1965 by Harold Godbersen, the parent company's name, "Gomaco", is a contraction of the words Godbersen Manufacturing Company.

Midwest Electric Railway has several streetcars that operate on the Old Threshers grounds. Among these are two open-air cars No.1779 and 1718 which were built in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1911. They operated in that city until 1965 when they became part of a group of cars that came to the US. The design of these cars is called a Narragansett style after a type developed by the Brill Company of Philadelphia. The interior woodwork is constructed of a Brazilian hardwood called Peroba de Camp. The cars joined the Old Threshers collection in 1970 and 1973.

If all goes well, No. 1779 will be back on the rails for the 2023 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion.



One of the trucks from No. 1779 is loaded for transport.

**NOW OPEN
EVERY NIGHT
UNTIL NEW YEARS EVE**

Mount Pleasant
FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

5:30 TO 9:00 PM

A large light display at night featuring a figure holding a sign that says 'FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS'. The figure is made of lights and is surrounded by other colorful light displays. The text 'NOW OPEN EVERY NIGHT UNTIL NEW YEARS EVE' is at the top, and '5:30 TO 9:00 PM' is at the bottom.

FEATURED FOR 2023

2023 Featured Antique Truck

1955 Chevrolet 3100 Truck

Owned by: Dean Soenksen of Cedar Rapids



2023 Featured Tractor

1938 Allis Chalmers WC

Owned by: Dolores Poulter Wilson of Mt. Pleasant

2023 Featured Garden Tractor

1965 Allis Chalmers B-12

Owned by: Jacob & Lauren Putthoff of Peculiar, MO



2023 Featured Traction Steam Engine

1902 14HP Robinsion

Owned by: Scott Wiley of Marion

2023 Featured Antique Car

1969 Plymouth Barracuda

Owned by: Sydney Hedgepeth of Minnetonka, MN



2023 Featured Antique Gas Engine

7-15 HP Master Workman

Owned by: Paul Gorrell of Burlington

2022 REUNION BREAKS RECORDS

The 2022 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion was one for the record books as visitors flooded the gates on Saturday giving the Association one of the biggest one-day attendance records to date. Total attendance was 37,049, the largest in 11 years with a one-day attendance record on Saturday of more than 9,000.

There was an estimated 1,249 registered campers on Saturday filling the 60-acre campground. Traction Steam hosted 80 engines; Car & Truck exhibits numbered 152; Gas Engines had 613 registered engines; Tractorland reported 1,052 registered tractors.

All four-nights of concerts were well attended with reserved seats selling out.

The Foundation's BINGO games were well attended and raised \$12,000 for its endowment.

We all enjoyed five beautiful days of weather. Thank you to all the volunteers and exhibitors for dedicating their time and talents to making the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion a success. Your willingness to pass on your love and knowledge of your areas of interest make a lasting impression on the visitors.

There were 1,111 volunteers who recorded 37,569 hours of volunteer work during 2022.



2022 REUNION BLESSED WITH GREAT WEATHER, BIG CROWDS



PERFECT STOCKING STUFFERS

MINNESOTA OLD THRESHERS MULTI-DAY ADMISSION FOR **\$25**

MT PLEASANT IOWA

RICHMOND IOWA

HOLIDAY SALE ENDS DECEMBER 16TH

Get your 5-day admissions for only \$25! Perfect stocking stuffer idea for that hard to buy for relative or friend.

Need more gift ideas? Stop in and shop the Old Threshers Gift Shop open Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm.

GAS ENGINE VOLUNTEERS BUY ANTIQUE BUCKET ELEVATOR

Several volunteers from the Gas Engine Area pooled their money to purchase a John Deere bucket elevator at auction this past summer. The elevator was put on demonstration during the Reunion. Steve Alt narrated the demonstration while other volunteers kept the corn feeding into the elevator.

The farmer would contract with a local builder to build a corn crib that he could put the elevator into.

The elevator is about 100 years-old and its main power came from a 1927 3hp John Deere gas engine on Reunion Monday. The elevator was manufactured in the Quad Cities.



HORSE PULL BRINGS 12 TEAMS TO MOUNT PLEASANT

The Don Carlson Memorial Horse Pull continues to bring quality teams to southeast Iowa to pull on the track under the lights in front of a packed grandstand.

Twelve teams competed this year. Cody Gray and his team placed first. Cody was also the winner of the "Gail Hembry Top Teamster" award at the 2022 Iowa State Fair.



Pictured above is Cody Gray, winner of the 2022 Don Carlson Memorial Horse Pull.

SWEET 16 COURT KEEPS BUSY ALL YEAR ROUND

Sweet 16 participants keep busy throughout the Old Threshers Reunion as they volunteer all over the grounds. They can be seen helping at the Hazel Grace Pierson Carousel Pavilion, selling official OT souvenirs, helping the Mt. Pleasant Business & Professional Women in their popcorn stand, working at the Information Booths or just walking the grounds greeting and helping visitors.

Once the Reunion is over, the Sweet 16 court volunteers throughout the community making appearances at parades, fundraisers and even putting their elf hats on to help at the Festival of Lights.

Congratulations to the 2022 Miss Sweet 16 court pictured at right.

- 1st Runner Up: Natalie McCormick
- Miss Sweet 16: Josie Gilmore
- Miss Volunteer: Megan Borders
- 2nd Runner Up: Addison Bentler

“Congratulations to ALL of the candidates,” says program coordinator Danielle Davidson. “We are proud of every single candidate for their volunteerism and growth throughout the Reunion.”



2022 Miss Sweet 16 Court (from l to r) 1st Runner Up: Natalie McCormick; Miss Sweet 16: Josie Gilmore; Miss Volunteer: Megan Borders; 2nd Runner Up: Addison Bentler.



The 2022 Miss Sweet 16 participants met with the OT Board of Directors prior to the 2022 Reunion.



2022 Miss Volunteer Megan Borders and 2nd Runner-up Addison Bentler walked alongside the Old Threshers float during the Mount Pleasant Lighted Holiday Parade.



Miss Sweet 16 assistant coordinator and 2019 Miss Volunteer Becky Imhoff keeps track of the ribbons for the Miss Sweet 17 winners prior to the crowning. The 2021 Reunion had both Sweet 16 and Sweet 17 courts following the cancellation of the 2020 Reunion.

PRINTERS' HALL CAN'T PRINT THEM FAST ENOUGH

A relatively new demonstration at the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion is the Kelly Springfield Press. A new name given to an old steam roller owned and operated by the Gross family of Colorado and their grandson Russell Heerdt.

The 1905 12-ton Kelly Springfield Road Roller began its life in the Greeley-Boulder, Colorado area and eventually found its way to Mount Pleasant for a complete restoration in 2009 making its grand appearance at the 2010 Reunion.

Not able to participate in the typical steam demonstrations, it was suggested to try street printing. Following the method done in California during the Roadworks Festival in San

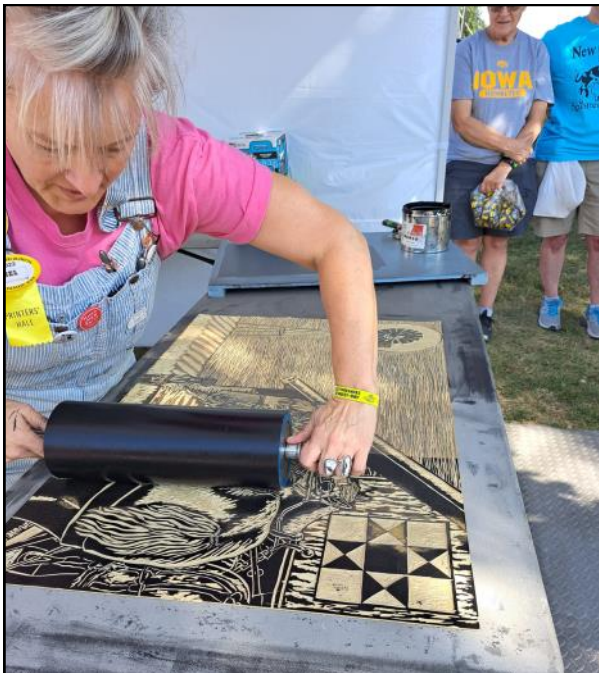
Francisco.

The artists in Printers' Hall were up to the challenge. They needed to make linoleum carvings that could be used with the roller to print large-format pieces of art. And so in 2017, the Kelly Springfield Press was born.

A steel plate is laid on the ground followed by plywood, the inked linoleum, paper, another piece of plywood and a foam mat. The steam roller slowly rolls over the sandwich of materials and a print is made.

The first year netted a handful of prints that sold out.

Printers' Hall volunteers made more than 50 prints during the three demonstrations at the 2022 Reunion. All of which sold even before the ink was dry.



HALLOWEEN EVENTS BRING VISITORS FROM ALL OVER

A walk through the parked cars during the Midwest Haunted Rails shows visitors to this unique event come from all over Iowa and the tri-state region.

Not unlike the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion, Midwest Haunted Rails and Thrashers House of Terror broke attendance records. There were more than 12,000 tickets sold for Haunted Rails.


The Midwest Electric Railway ran the Ghost Trolley while the Midwest Central Railroad operated the Ghost Train of No Return. Visitors were also treated to a spooky carousel ride, carnival rides, blow-ups and more for the price of a \$15 wristband.

Those who wanted a little more spice to their scare could buy a ticket to the Thrashers House of Terror. More than 8,000 people made the journey through the haunted house. Of those 129 chickened out and couldn't do the whole thing, with a few of them not even making it past the front door.

Congratulations to the 117 volunteers who dedicated 5,100 hours to the haunted house. You did your job well!



2022 THRASHERS HOUSE OF TERROR

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| GUEST THAT CHICKENED OUT | GUEST THAT PEE |
| | |
| | = 50 |
| | |
| | GUEST THAT PUKE |
| | = 1 |
| |  |
| = 129 | |



Answers to What is it? Where is it? From page 12

A) Sparks from a spark show. Spark shows are held nightly in the main demonstration area. B) Soaking tank at the Veneer Mill. C) Friendly horse nose in the Horse Barn. D) Cedar shavings from the Shingle Mill in Traction Steam E) Front end of an Oliver Row Crop 66 tractor in Tractorland. F) The huge Babcock Press found in Printers' Hall.

ANNUAL MEETING BRINGS MEMBERSHIP TO THEATRE MUSEUM

The 2022 Midwest Old Threshers Annual meeting was held on Saturday, November 11th in the performance level of the Theatre Museum.

OT board member Chris Heaton (pictured at right) introduced board members Bob Welander, Bob Gerdes, Melinda Huisinga and Alan Buckert who had previously signed letters of intent to serve another term on the board. All were unopposed and were unanimously voted in at the meeting.

The first of many 2023 30-hour volunteer awards were handed out. Art for the award was done by the talented Robin Fisher and is a pencil drawing of 2-year-old Declan Bixler taking the controls of a model steam engine with



OT CEO Terry McWilliams unveils the newest 30-hour volunteer award.

the words "family traditions." Volunteers receiving their 30-hour award (pictured bottom right) included Steve Tolander, Mel Higgins, Bill Perrenoud, Dave Dietz, Pat and Mike Dietz.



DAVIS STEPS DOWN AS DIRECTOR AFTER 25 YEARS

Sharon Davis was surrounded by friends and family at the OT Annual Meeting as she stepped down from the Old Threshers Foundation board of directors after 25 years of service.

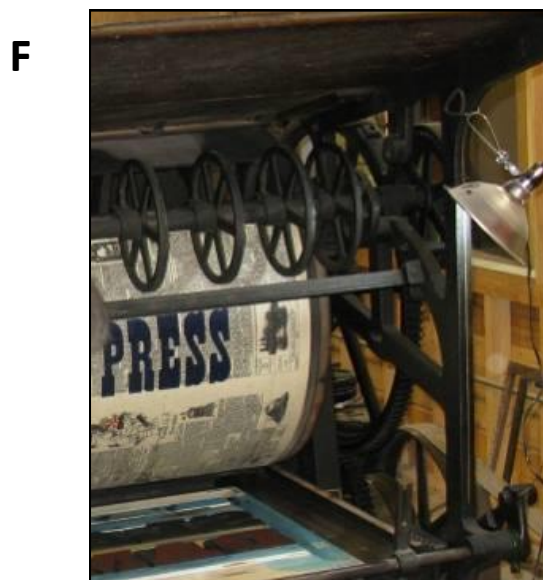
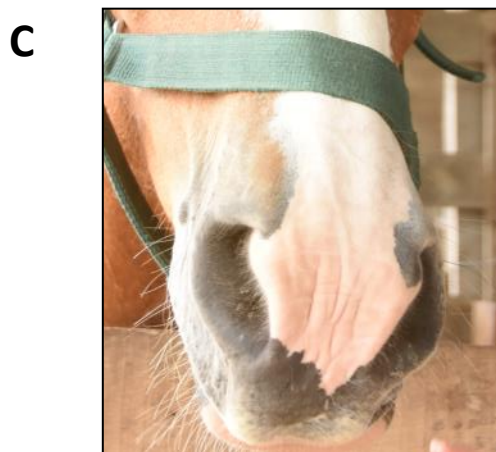
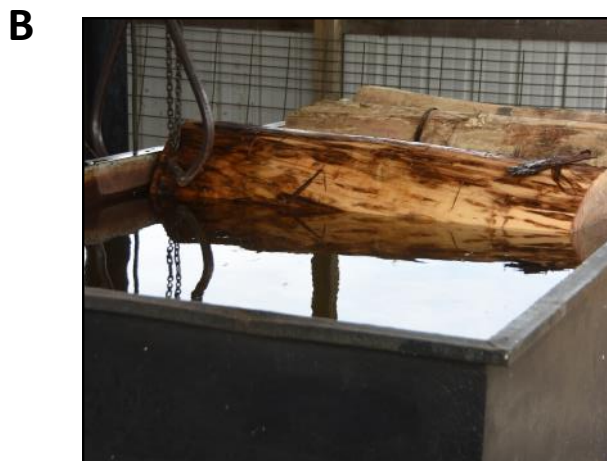
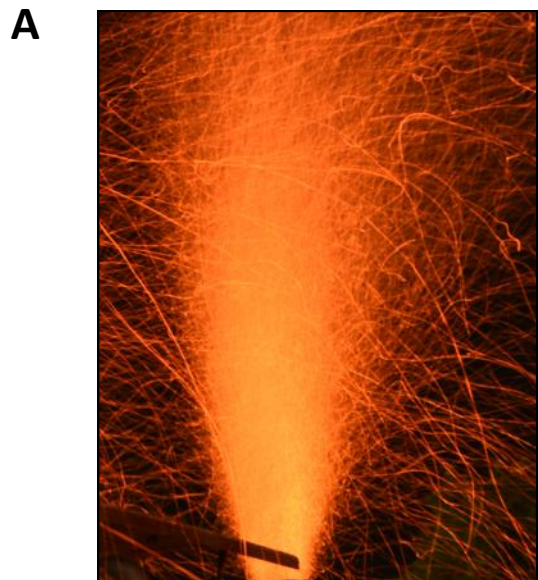
Foundation President Todd Mabeus honored Davis with a plaque and kind words for the work she did while serving for almost 3 decades to better the Foundation and support Midwest Old Threshers.



A Financial Support Organization for Midwest Old Threshers

WHAT IS IT? WHERE IS IT?

Can you tell what these things are? And if so, where can one find them during the Old Threshers Reunion?
Answers are out the bottom of page 9.



OBITUARIES

Gary Conrad

Gary Lee Conrad, age 69, of Marengo, passed away August 21, 2022, at Rose Haven Nursing Home, Marengo.

Gary was born August 13, 1953, in rural Victor, the son of the late Wayne Dean and Mary Ann (Wauters) Conrad. He grew up on the family farm and graduated from Victor High School in 1971. Gary was employed as a mechanic at several local businesses, until he opened his own business, Gary's Repair. He specialized in ag equipment services and repair. Gary loved tractors. John Deere was his favorite. He enjoyed restoring them and working on the engines. He liked going to antique tractor and engine shows, Old Threshers and participating in the WMT Tractorcades and other tractor cruise rides. Gary retired early so he could take care of his mother. He even made a special seat for her to ride along with him on the tractor rides. Later in life, Gary enjoyed his time at Rose Haven Nursing Home and received wonderful care.

A memorial has been established.

Gregg Meyer

Gregg "Moose" Eugene Meyer, 60, of Keosauqua passed away at his home on September 21, 2022.

Gregg was born on May 27, 1962, in Keosauqua to Walter Clifford and Juanita Mae Thompson Meyer. He grew up on the family's dairy farm near Vernon and graduated from Harmony High School in 1980. After high school Gregg left the farm and went to college in Emmetsburg, Iowa for Dairy Farm Management. He then worked for a short while for Rathbun Rural Water before starting to work at Dexter Foundry and then moving to the factory and becoming a welder. After 33 years of service Gregg was able to retire in 2021. Gregg met his wife, Kimberly Sue Swanson and they were married on December 31, 2020, in Fairfield after being together for 30 years.

Gregg was the President of the Vernon Cemetery association, a loyal

member of the Machinists Union 1293 in Fairfield. He had volunteered at Old Threshers making sorghum with his good friend Bob for over 30 years. His greatest passion in life was to be outdoors hunting and fishing, he loved to hunt raccoons with his Blue Tick Hounds and would often sleep in a field when he was finished for the night and leave from there to head to work in the morning.

Memorials to Vernon Cemetery may be left at the funeral home or mailed to the family at 23004 Quail Road, Keosauqua, IA 52565.

Phyllis Mertens

Phyllis Arlene (Buche) Martens passed away peacefully on September 24, 2022 at Madrid Home in Madrid.

Phyllis was born May 26, 1929, to Louis F. Buche and Marie H. (Taylor) Buche near Madrid. She graduated from Sheldahl High School in 1946.

Phyllis married Frank O. Oliver (he preceded her in death) and to this union three children were born: Ralph L. Oliver, Jo Anne L. (Oliver) Lopez, and Larry D. Oliver. She married Samuel J. Schooling and they moved to Kansas City, MO later in 1961 where he preceded her in death. Phyllis and the children stayed in Kansas City until 1967 when they moved back to Iowa to be near family. She married Ivan P. Martens and they resided in Roland, until his death. Phyllis then moved to Huxley and resided there until she moved to Madrid in 2018.

In her early years, Phyllis worked in Des Moines at Look Magazine and for the Iowa Department of Commerce. She later went on to work at Iowa State University at the Physical Plant and later retired from the Iowa State University Library.

During her lifetime, she enjoyed family

time and trips. She especially enjoyed doing activities with her nieces and nephews such as fishing and playing cards.

Phyllis played basketball for Look Magazine, played alto saxophone in high school, was an EMTA in Roland, was a Story County election judge, a member of Sun Dial-Solomon Dean DAR Chapter, and a member of the Sheldahl United Methodist Church and UMW group.

One of her fondest trips was taking her mother, Marie, and aunt, Mildred Jacobson, to California for her aunt, Marseal's, 80th birthday. Along the way, they traveled the Oregon Trail that her Grandma Van Dorn traveled in 1861-1864. They enjoyed seeing many historical landmarks over several states.

Phyllis is survived by her children, Ralph L. Oliver (Donna), and Jo Anne L. Lopez (Lupe); grandchildren, Angie Pratt (Corey), Nicole Acevedo (Ray), Anthony Lopez (Amy), and Olivia Oliver; great-grandchildren, Jesse Oliver (fiancé, Carissa Flores), Austin Johnstad, Sarah Gross (Jarod), Nicholas Tracy, Zac Lopez, Dominic Lopez, Elianna Acevedo, Yolanda Rique (Xander), Mary Acevedo, and Bradney Pratt; great-great grandchildren, Haylynn Pratt and Emmitt Pratt; brothers, James Buche and Charles Buche (Darlene); sisters-in-law, Elizabeth (Oliver) Uthe, and Marian (Oliver) Hapes (Virgil); brother-in-law, Don Reese; as well as several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her son, Larry D. Oliver; her three husbands; sisters, Margaret Picht (Roy), Velma Reese, and Irene Dutton (Larry); and grandson, Gabriel Richards.



2023 Calendar of Events

Office Closed December 22-January 3rd
 January 4—Campground Letters Mailed Out
 February 3rd—Last Day to Renew Campground Reservations
 February 6—Campground Reservations Open to the Public
 February 20—Office Closed in Observance of Presidents' Day
 March 8—2023 Concert Announcement 6pm
 April 7—Office Closed in Observance of Good Friday
 April 26—Start of School Tours
 May 6-7—Steam School
 May 26—Greater Iowa Swap Meet & Collectibles Show | Gun Show
 June 10—Trolley School
 July 4—Community 4th of July Celebration
 July 11-17—Henry County Fair
 August 4-6—Western Illinois Threshers
 August 10-20—Iowa State Fair
 August 16—Reunion Briefing Meeting
 August 19—Campground Opens
 August 30—Harvest Day Parade
 August 31-September 4—2023 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion
 September 13-16—Printers' Fair
 October 5-7, 12-14, 19-21, 26-28—Thrashers House of Terror
 October 13-14, 20-21, 27-28—Haunted Rails
 November 11—Old Threshers Annual Meeting | Foundation Annual Meeting
 November 18-19—Walk-thru Nights Festival of Lights
 November 22-December 31—Festival of Lights
 November 23-24—Office Closed for Thanksgiving
 December 21-January 2—Office Closed

