

# Threshers Chaff

Midwest Old Threshers Association  
Mount Pleasant, Iowa

Volume 41, Number 2

Fall 2015

## Free Entertainment Options Draw Reunion Crowds

Did you know that in addition to the free entertainment on the KILJ Grandstand Stage each Reunion, there are more than 90 free concerts around the grounds during the 5-day Reunion?

Each year Doris Price and the rest of the Entertainment Committee work diligently to bring Old Threshers visitors quality musical entertainment at no additional cost.

This year's entertainers included The Wissman Family, The Czech Plus Band, Bluegrass Blondies, The Tinders, Steve Hargis, Lyle Beaver Trio, Ascension Quartet, Second Hand Toes, Larry Jensen and Faith's Journey just to name a few.

These talented musicians and entertainers can be found in various venues around the grounds. Be sure to get your official Old Threshers Program once you arrive. Take a moment to look at the day's schedule and plan your visit around the many free entertainment options.

The nightly County Music Shows and the more than 90 mini-concerts around the grounds are included with your admission!

Whether you like country, gospel, rock, blues, dance, bluegrass or oldies there is something for you!



Reunion visitors dance the night away at the Dance Barn.

Visitors took advantage of square dancing lessons in the Dance Barn as well as Bluegrass Jam Sessions in the Family Tent.

## A Word from the President by Bob Gerdes

It's hard to believe that the Reunion has come and gone, this year has gone by so fast.

Thanks to the many volunteers who help prepare, host and clean up after the Reunion

The line-up for the free grandstand entertainment generated a lot of interest and brought a full house over the four nights.

Work has progressed with the exhibits that Lennis Moore designed in Heritage Museum B because of the many volunteer hours. The firehouse in the North Village has been removed and a replica has been built along with an old time gas station and an over the road trucking display featuring our Arledge truck, which is being restored. The major items on the exterior of the displays is shown at the 2015 Reunion but we are in need of additional items in the interior of the gas station and firehouse. If you have any petroleum related items or items for the firehouse, please contact myself or Terry McWilliams and we can get together and talk about our needs.



Hundreds of volunteers help members of the Old Threshers Board of Directors and Old Threshers Staff get ready for the 5-day Reunion. Whether it's setting up fence, touching up paint or organizing souvenirs, there is a lot to do.

Thank you to all who attended the 2015 Reunion and remember that the weather is always great at Old Threshers!!!

## Foundation Sees Many Visitors During 2015 Reunion

The Old Threshers Foundation Room is one of the few air-air conditioned places during The Reunion. It is located in Museum A near the gazebo, which offers free family entertainment throughout each day. Our Foundation board members and volunteers welcomed many and gave them the opportunity to visit about The Foundation and to apply free (temporary) tattoos to all the kids (of any age!).



*A Financial Support Organization for Midwest Old Threshers*

New this year in the Foundation room was our souvenir penny smashing machine. These machines are very popular at other museums as well as vacation theme parks. Visitors can choose from four different Lennis Moore designs – steam carousel, steam engine, trolley and tractor. Be sure to stop by the gift shop at Old Threshers and get your collectible souvenir anytime of the year.

During the Country Gold concert on Thursday evening, September 3, Leroy Van Dyke once again auctioned an autographed guitar, for the benefit of school tours, which are offered free to upper elementary students in the surrounding school districts each year. Look for the Fall *Chaff* published later this year for a story on the winner!

Providing financial support to Midwest Old Threshers is the sole purpose of the Foundation. Since it was established in 1986, the Foundation has transferred **OVER ONE MILLION** in earnings from its permanent endowment to Midwest Old Threshers. Nearly 150 projects have been funded by these earnings throughout the years; these projects include steam engine, tractor and trolley car restoration, museum exhibits, Bussey doll collection, trees and landscaping, campground electrical upgrades, trolley tracks, sound system, building construction for the Log Village, North Village, Printers' Hall, showers and restrooms, welcome center, food pavilion, steam carousel, and headquarter buildings for the tractor, gas engine and steam areas.

In addition, the Foundation has transferred \$231,000 in contributions from its new pass through account. With the creation of this new donor option, contributions can now be designated for specific needs and immediately be passed on to Old Threshers. Examples of pass through donations include the Mount Pleasant Festival of Lights, Printers Hall and specific memorials such as Drive-A-Tractor, steam carousel and the new antique car, truck and fire department exhibit designed by Lennis Moore.

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 Alan Huisinga, Executive Director, at the Midwest Old Threshers office 319-385-8937.

We appreciate your support and enjoyed talking with everyone over the Labor Day weekend!

Alan Huisinga, Executive Director

**Featured Tractor—1950 Massey Harris 44 Standard**

Herb and Twila LaMaack, Durant, Iowa, have a long family tradition of farming with Massey Harris tractors beginning on a farm just north of Newton, Iowa. Herb’s first tractor was a 44 Row Crop 250 with a 3-bottom plow. His dad bought a 101 in 1945 and that is when the family’s blood started to run Massey Harris red. They have been coming to the Old Threshers Reunion for almost 40 years. They enjoy meeting old friends and making new ones. Their family has a fleet of tractors, which according to Herb, just multiplies the headaches. The social atmosphere found at tractor events makes those headaches worthwhile. During their tractor pulling days, the LaMaacks would travel with their “extended family” from town to town competing and socializing. They also have a collection of John Deere, which they use for tractor drives. He and his wife still farm south of Durant where they are close to their daughter and son-in-law.



**2015 Featured Tractor—44 Massey Harris Diesel  
Herb & Twila LaMaack—Durant, Iowa**

**Featured Gas Engine—Cushman**

Everett Cushman and his cousin, Clinton, were a pioneering force in the field of gas engines in the early 1900s. Originally starting out in the agricultural field, the two really made their mark when they won a contest for the fastest boat powered by a single-cylinder motor. They modified their two-cycle engine into a high output boat engine and won the competition. While their marine engines garnered a loyal following, it wasn’t enough to keep the company going. They continued working to improve their stationary engines for the agricultural arena. In 1909, Everett Sawyer joined the team. As general operations manager, Everett helped turn Cushman Motor Company into a profitable business by insisting they concentrate on agriculture rather than marine engines. Farmers used their engines to power corn pickers, binders, sprayers and more. The company was renamed the Cushman Motors Works and built its own foundry and factory in 1919.



**2015 Featured Gas Engine Company  
CUSHMAN  
Manufactured by Cushman Motor Works—Lincoln, NE  
Owned by: Galen Perron—Mt. Pleasant, Iowa**

**Featured Car—1930 Ford Model A**



**2015 Featured Car—1930 Model A  
John and Barb Ramsey—Washington, Iowa**

This year’s featured car is a 1930 Ford Model A Coupe owned by John and Barb Ramsey of Washington, Iowa. The Ramsey’s have been married for 56 years and have owned the car for 55 of the years. John said they bought it from a neighbor and, over the years, have done a complete restoration job. This is the second year they have exhibited in the Antique Car Area and are honored to be the featured car. John and Barb take their car to Cruise Nights in Washington and have attended the Model A Meet in the Amanas. The Ramseys have three grown children. John works for the Washington Parks Department during the warm months and takes up his woodworking in the winter. He and Barb have owned acreage for the last 50 years on which they raise sheep. Barb is retired.

# 2015 HARVEST PARADE



RESTORATION CORNER

Artifacts for New Exhibit Going Through Restoration

Many hands make light work, or so the saying goes. Several hands and many hours are going into the restoration of artifacts that will be on display in the new exhibit in Museum B and the recently named Lennis Moore Exhibit Hall.

Volunteers and Old Threshers staff have been working diligently to bring to life Lennis Moore's last vision. He put on paper what his mind saw as the next permanent interpretive exhibit at Old Threshers.

The plans call for a replica firehouse, gas station and explanation of the evolution of trucking in the United States.

Once housed in the old Firehouse building in the North Village, several pieces of antique fire equipment have had their time in the OT shop being scraped, repaired and painted. These, along with an antique fire truck and car donated by Bob Gilchrist and Bob Gerdes respectively will help make Lennis' vision a reality.

The construction of the exhibit is finished and the large artifacts are nearly complete but there is still a need for smaller things. If anyone has anything to donate that may have been sold at a Standard Station and would like to donate contact the Old Threshers Office at 319-385-8937.



Above: The box for the Arledge Transfer truck has been repainted. The truck itself is in Burlington where students from Southeastern Community College are restoring the piece of transportation history. Below: The Standard sign is up and the fire truck waits for its spot in the display.

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.



IT'S HERE!
The 17th Edition Midwest Old Threshers Cookbook
Order yours from the OT Gift Shop today!
Call 319-385-8937

## Bear Hollow Wood Carvers make logs come to life.

Bear Hollow's Travelling Shows brought the excitement of the full-throttle art form of chainsaw carving to this year's Reunion.

Their skills were on display four times a day on Sept 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th. Visitors grabbed a front row seat as the carver transformed logs into amazing sculptures.

The finished creations were sold throughout the Reunion with sales benefitting Midwest Old Threshers.

Bear Hollow Wood Carvers have performed for NASCAR, Professional Bull Riders Association, Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Extreme Home Makeover, Daytona Bike Week, Harley Davidson and Make-A-Wish Foundation

## Additional Electric Service Installed in Campground

Thanks in part to financial support from The Foundation and the City of Mt. Pleasant, Old Threshers was able to install more 30amp electric hook-ups in the campground.

This brings the number of 30amp sites to 945. The campground also offers a few 50amp sites for those larger campers.

The number of sites

reserved for the 2015 Reunion was way up from 2014.

While the Campground crew will find a place for you to camp when you arrive, access to electric hook ups is not guaranteed.

Reservations for the 2016 Reunion will be accepted early next year. Keep an eye out for the date.



## Raffle Benefits School Tours

The Midwest Old Threshers Foundation had a raffle to benefit the Old Threshers School Tour Program. Tickets entered participants to win a 1951 WD Allis Chalmers.

The drawing was held September 7th at the Richard E. Oetken Tractor Headquarters building. Watch for the Fall Issue of the Chaff for details about the winner.

At the 2014 Reunion, the Foundation auctioned off an autographed guitar and was able to raise \$9,000 for the School Tour Program. Leroy VanDyke auctioned off another autographed guitar at this year's Reunion. Proceeds will also go to the School Tour program.

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

## 2015 Button Collector's Update By Carolyn Sidebottom

### Fourteenth Annual Button Collectors' Forum

Button Collectors assembled for the fourteenth consecutive year at Button Collectors' Forum during the 2015 Old Threshers Reunion.

Carolyn Sidebottom gave a short presentation on the Single Special Issue Buttons. These featured buttons are the smallest supplemental Old Threshers set. The Single Special Issue Buttons are highly collectible; but not necessarily readily available. It takes some effort to seek them out in the secondary market.

Old Threshers button collectors of all ages attended the open house. The serious collector and the merely curious are always welcome to gather informally to learn from each other and swap stories about our interesting and rewarding hobby. Young collectors and new collectors are especially welcome.

The Forum provides an excellent opportunity to show off your collections and rare finds, or to ask questions about buttons in your own collection. There are a selection of available collectable buttons for sale during the open house. Attending the forum, where you will find information on ways to collect OT buttons and have an opportunity to see the variety of supplies available is an excellent way to get a good start on your new collection, or update your old one.

I get excited about this event that brings collectors together, and I look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones.

### The Beginning of a New Era

Ben Moore has joined the Old Threshers community as the new engine portrait artist. His 2015 debut with the Engine of the Year, Nelson Smith's 1910 16 hp Gaar Scott with

its festive canopy, was a spectacular first effort. I look forward to watching Ben's interpretations for years to come. I am hoping to feature Ben Moore and his art in a future Threshers Chaff article.

### 2015 Souvenir Button Design



This year's Reunion color theme is purple, black, and white. The **2015 Souvenir button** features a 1910 16 hp. Gaar Scott

steam traction engine (SN 14892) owned by Nelson Smith from Brighton, Iowa. That is Nelson, standing on the left! In addition to Ben Moore's engine art, the 2015 button contains the full Reunion date and the familiar identifying Reunion information circling the central vignette. The engine portrait is signed this year. Get out your magnifier and see if you can find it!

The button also includes a purple gradation of color in the background—a visual technique that

was started some years ago, and used sporadically since. I think this background technique adds the illusion of depth to the intricate design, and I hope we will see this technique used more often for future button art.

The 56 mm diameter button is constructed as many previous buttons have been—a plastic coated paper formed over a metal shell and held together by a silver color metal backing disk. The attached pin has the silver loop style catch. As of mid-June this year, no varieties have been reported by my sharp-eyed variety collectors who keep me up to date on possible existing varieties for the current year.

### 2015 Special Souvenir Button

For the past five years, Old Threshers has issued a Special Souvenir button. Due to the continuing popularity of these giant four-inch Souvenir buttons, Old Threshers has issued a limited quantity of the 2015 Souvenir buttons in the same format. This makes an interesting supplemental button for the core collection.

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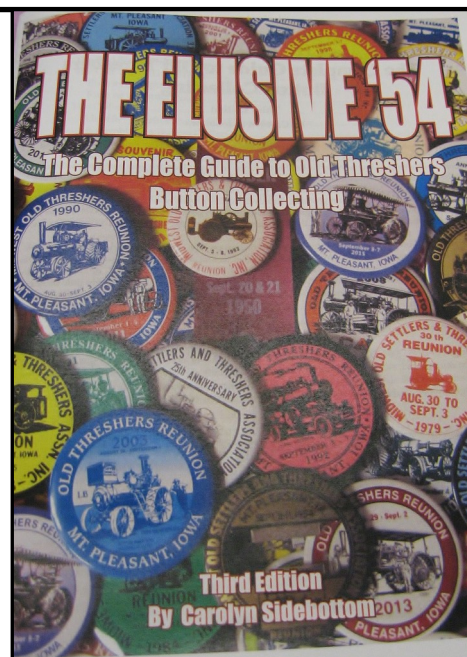
Pick up a copy of  
**The Elusive '54: Third Edition**

by Carolyn Sidebottom

This full-color, 8 1/2" x 11", soft cover book will get you started in the art of collecting Old Threshers buttons.

A seasoned collector? Look to this informative guide to help you manage and grow your collection!

Available all year round in the Old Threshers Gift Shop



## Nelson Owned Featured Engine, Twice by Carolyn Sidebottom

Nelson Smith attended his first Old Threshers Reunion forty-eight years ago when he was just fourteen years old.

Two years later, when most kids are pestering their parents for cars, Nelson purchased his first steam engine (a Case) at the age of sixteen!

Over the ensuing years, Nelson purchased other engines until he owned three—a Case, a Port Huron, and a Gaar Scott. Nelson has also been a steam engineer and a fireman for the Midwest Central Railroad for forty-three years. Obviously, Nelson's first love was steam power; but he has branched out into other areas to include some antique gasoline tractors and Model A automobiles.

Nelson bought the Gaar Scott in 1969, from Lyle Dumont, of Sigourney, Iowa. In 1972, he sold the engine to Roy and Irene Larson. Roy Larson did a lot of restoration work on the Gaar Scott in the years that he owned it, including building the festive scalloped canopy now on the engine.

The Gaar Scott company originally had a scalloped canopy available; but apparently this particular engine either didn't have one, or it needed a new one! Mr. Larson also made tool boxes for the platform and a flue sheet.

In 1994, Roy Larson died. A year later, Nelson Smith bought the Gaar Scott back from Irene Larson. Nelson subsequently had a new firebox installed and a new water tank made. The

combined efforts of these two men have accounted for much of the Gaar Scott's preservation over the years.

I think it is interesting that Nelson Smith has owned this engine twice in his life.

Nelson pointed out that this particular engine is interesting because *"the operator's platform can easily be removed to facilitate firing the engine from the ground when the engine is being used for stationary work such as threshing or sawmilling jobs."*

This is something you might want to drop by and discuss further with Nelson and find out how that works!

The Gaar Scott name is not necessarily well known among non-steam people. I have heard of it... But that was all I could say before I talked to Nelson. He offered the following explanation which helped to bring the company through to a name that might be more familiar. *"Gaar Scott was based in Richmond, Indiana. It merged with the Rumely Company in 1911. That company was reorganized as Advance-Rumely Thresher Company, Inc. The Advance-Rumely Thresher Company, Inc. was later purchased by Allis-Chalmers Mfg. Co."* Now that is a company I have heard of outside the Old Threshers arena!



Nelson Smith, Brighton, Iowa, and his 1910 16hp Gaar Scott.

## Button continued from page 7

I expect this large button to be very popular this year because it is the first Ben Moore design. Contact the Old Threshers' office for availability and pricing of this collectible button.

### Official Supplements

The *2015 Volunteer* button coordinates with the color of the main *Souvenir* button. This button is a name window button featuring a purple and white color scheme. The printing is white in the dark purple outer ring that

includes "2015" and the traditional phrase, "Proud to Volunteer." Dark purple printing in the lighter purple inner circle identifies Old Threshers, and Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

In mid-June, the *2015 Exhibitor/Staff* button was unavailable for examination. In past years, this oval name-window button has closely resembled the design of the Volunteer button. An attached coordinating ribbon will identify the main Old Threshers activity area of the wearer.

Both of these supplemental buttons are earned for volunteer work at Old Threshers. Old Threshers has *never* sold these buttons. These supplemental buttons do, on occasion, show up in the secondary market, but collectors must hunt diligently for them.

If you are interested in earning either or both of these volunteer buttons, contact the Old Threshers Office, the first step in becoming involved in Old Threshers' rewarding volunteer service.

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## Iles, Bridges Added to Toby Hall of Fame by Grace Davis

Two new names were added to the museum's Toby Hall of Fame during the 2015 Theatre Museum Conference in April.

Joining a long list of troupers who played Toby over the last 100 years are Brian Iles and Shane Bridges.

Brian Iles, a Mount Pleasant native, toured with Jimmy Davis' Schaffner Players in the 1990s and for the last 15 years has starred in Old Threshers' Summer Theatre's productions of Neil and Caroline Schaffner's plays. For most of those years, he has played Toby and has quite a following. Toby fans have remarked that Brian reminds them of both Jimmy Davis and Neil Schaffner.

Shane Bridges has been a professional actor in the Nashville, Tennessee area and now lives in nearby Parson, Tennessee. He has been closely associated with the Rivertime Players in Parson, both as an actor and playwright. For more information on the Rivertime Players and Shane, check out their great website: [www.rivertimeplayers.org](http://www.rivertimeplayers.org).



## MP, OT, IWU and Henry County Represented at State Fair



The Old Threshers Foundation, Mt. Pleasant Chamber Alliance, Iowa Wesleyan University, and Midwest Old Threshers worked together to promote Mt. Pleasant, Henry County, the University and the Reunion for 11 days during the Iowa State Fair. Thank you to all who volunteered!



**Above, from left:** Foundation Board member Joyce Dennison, Paul Dennison and Katie Dennison work at the Mt Pleasant booth at the Iowa State Fair. **Top right, from left:** Foundation Executive Director Alan Huisinga, OT CEO Terry McWilliams and his wife Cyndi, a professor at Iowa Wesleyan University. **Bottom right, from left:** Vicky Gerdes and Jackie Wistrom apply temporary tattoos.



## Featured Lawn Tractor—12hp Massey Ferguson



While looking through Lawn & Garden Magazine, Bruce Moore of Mt. Pleasant, saw an add for six Massey Harris Lawn tractors. He bought all 6 of them. Some of them run, but they all need work. Bruce's collection consists of three 12 HP, two 7HP and one 8HP. He decided to just bring the featured tractor this year as health problems slowed down the restoration process of the others. Bruce has also been one of the carpenters working on the new exhibit in Museum B this spring. Massey Harris manufactured 7-12 HP lawn tractors from 1970-1976. In their later years they made 14-16HP models. Early models featured a hydrostatic drive. They eventually graduated to a 4-speed Peerless transmission. This year's featured tractor has a 12HP Tecumseh's, 27.7-inch engine.

## Featured Truck— 1929 Ford Model A Pickup

Ron and Lorraine Herring of Winchester, Kansas, own this year's featured truck. In 1965, a friend of theirs had a pickup he wanted Ron to look at and tell him what he thought it was worth. A year later, that friend came back wanting to know if it had held it's value and if Ron wanted to buy it. With the help of friends, family and body man, Alvin Erhart, the truck went through an 11 1/2 year, frame off restoration. Ron and Lorraine take the truck through parades and attend car shows in their area. They usually bring home Oldest Car and Best of Show awards. Their truck is also a highly sought after prop for wedding and anniversary pictures. They first exhibited the truck at Old Threshers in 2006. Ron enjoys talking to visitors and also sharing his expertise about the Model A. He has several people which whom he has shared restoration tips come back to him with updates on their projects. "I wish I had that when I was working on my truck," says Ron of his advice. Ron looks at restoration as a way to preserve a little piece of history.



**Interested in volunteering?**

**There are still plenty of opportunities left this year.**

**Thrashers House of Terror**

**Haunted Rails**

**Festival of Lights**

**It's not too early to put your name on the list to volunteer for next year!**

**School Tours**

**Swap Meet**

**2016 Reunion**

**Call 319-385-8937**



**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**

**Join Us for the 2016  
Midwest Old Threshers Reunion  
September 1-5**

## New Berlin & Winfield Railroad Engine Number Two

by Kendall Osier

In 1904, it became evident to the people of New Berlin and Winfield, Pennsylvania, that a railroad linking the two towns together would help the local economy.

In September 1904, a group of men set out to get the New Berlin and Winfield Railroad capitalized. They succeeded, and by June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1905, a second-hand narrow gauge 4-4-0 was pulling trains on the 8-mile long right-of-way between the two agricultural-rich towns. By June 1906, they realized they needed a second engine.

In late August of that year, a brand new dark olive green twenty-ton coal-burning Baldwin mogul (2-6-0) with the number two was unloaded onto the N.B. & W.'s tracks.

The Two pulled short, often mixed (both passenger and freight cars) trains until July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1912, when a half dozen washouts devastated the railroad. The "Jerk Water Line" (as it often was referred to by locals) was forced into receivership, due to the costs of track repairs. Eventually, the track was repaired, and trains could once again travel between New Berlin and Winfield. However, the rise of the automobile and the close of the college in New Berlin drastically hurt the railroad's



business. The railroad was foreclosed for \$11,500 on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1916.

The Two, only eleven years old at the time, was sold to the Argent Lumber Company of Hardeeville, South Carolina, on July 23, 1917.

The Two, now at the Argent Lumber Company, underwent many changes. It was now a "Swamp Rat," hauling logs through swampy areas with many other engines, including former S.S. & S. Ry. number six, the "Maria", (yes, the same number six "Maria" we have at the M.C.R.R).

The Two saw much more service at the Argent Lumber Company than it ever did at the "Jerk Water Line". The Argent Lumber Company's logging operations came to a halt in April, 1956. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1959, it was announced that the engines would be auctioned off. The newly formed Midwest Central

Railroad was at the auction. We bought the Two along with the Six, a Fairmont, a 4-man handcart, a Velocipede, a M.O.W. cart, and a 1923 Ford Model T foreman's rail car originating from the S.S. & S. Ry., like the Six.

The Two was initially test fired in 1968. Five years later, it was running. Its last run was on September 1, 1986. It was called out of service officially in 1987, and taken apart to begin the long restoration.

Recently, the reassembling process has started to pick up. A replacement boiler is being fabricated by the Lund Machine Works in New Ulm, Minnesota. The tender's new tank has arrived. We have shipped out driving wheels to Durango to be quartered and repaired. The frame pedestal jaws (where the axle boxes sit) were inspected and repaired in 2007.

During work weekends at the railroad, we are cleaning parts for the two in the solvent tank, sandblasting, and inspecting them. We are planning to restore the Two to its original 1906 New Berlin and Winfield appearance. This engine has more than enough potential to be a beautiful engine, but it will not happen without your help, funding, and support.

To donate, you can go to [www.mccr.com](http://www.mccr.com), then click "Fix the Two", and type in your level of donation. Please contact us at 319-385-2912 if you want to arrange a larger donation.

As always, we accept volunteers, and appreciate all the help we can get.



**Left:** #2 sitting at the NB&W's New Berlin station. *Picture from the collection of the Union County, PA historical Society.*

## Catching Up with Past Sweet 16 Contestants By Mackenzie Notestein

Caitlyn Depriest, 17, is the 2014 Sweet 16 Winner of Midwest Old Threshers. She will be a senior this fall at Mount



Pleasant High School and is involved in numerous activities such as marching band and choir. Caitlyn is the daughter of Jim and Marlene Depriest. Depriest has been involved with Old Threshers since she was just six years old.

Starting at a very young age, she volunteered as a "Kindergartener" and remained until she "graduated" from the one-room school house at the Log Village. The Log Village played a huge role in her decision of joining the Sweet 16 contest. "The Log Village is

a big part of my life and that is what inspired me to go participate in the Sweet 16," Caitlyn said.

Throughout the contest, Caitlyn volunteered around Old Threshers. She helped out at various places such as the General Store, log village, and North School. "It was a cool experience. I got to experience other things at Old Threshers besides the Log Village," she said. Being a Sweet 16 you have to be outgoing and interact with many people. "I considered myself as an outgoing person, and I love interacting with people. There are so many different people, and you have to get use to that by interacting with people that you don't know," Depriest said.

When I asked her about how Old Threshers shaped her life? She responded, "Oh gosh! I love Old Threshers! I have met many people who have greatly influenced me. In the

Log Village, I have made so many friends. I also have made friends who live out of town. We all get along so well and we have that bond and connection."

Now that Caitlyn is a senior, she has a future to think about! Currently she is still looking at colleges but she wants to study in music business. She hopes one day she will work in the music industry with marketing. When I asked her what inspired her to work in the music business. Caitlyn responded, "My family has inspired me a lot. My parents are my great inspirations. They inspired me to study music and I love how they have such a great love for music."

Before she leaves she does have an advice for girls who want to participate in the Sweet 16. "It is a lot of fun! Just put yourself out there and interact with others especially the ones you do not know."

Ashley Loving, 19, is one of the many volunteers at Midwest Old Threshers. Ashley is from Lockridge, IA and she is the daughter of Jody and Jeremy Loving.



This summer Ashley helped out with the Henry County Fair. She worked closely with the 4-H. Ashley helped with the food tent and making sure the trash is being picked up. Loving has been involved with the 4-H since she was nine until she graduated from high school.

Ashley has been involved with Old

Threshers for around 10 years. She would help volunteer at her church's tent which sells the turkey legs. Her favorite part about Old Threshers is the Log Village. "Every year the Log Village is improving and I like how you can see what life was like back in the 1850s in action," she said.

During the 2012 Old Threshers Reunion, Ashley participated in the Sweet 16 contest and got third-runner up! During the contest she would help volunteer around the Old Threshers grounds and meet new people. Ever since then she would come back every year and help coach the girls for the contest. Her advice to girls who want to participate in the sweet 16, "Even if you are hesitant, go for it. This is a great experience and it will help you

gain more community involvement. Also, everyone is so kind and we got to meet a lot of new girls from out of town."

Currently, Ashley will be a sophomore at Iowa State University this fall. She is studying Agricultural Engineering. Her main focus is animal production and she hopes to one day work on a larger farm. I asked her what inspired her to go into agriculture and she responded, "What inspired me is that I grew up in Iowa on a small Angus farm and I think the biggest thing that got me to go agriculture is the 4-H," she said. Ashley wants to thank everyone in the office for running things smoothly and helping make Old Threshers a better place.

## 2015 SWEET 16 CONTESTANTS

Aspen Bromell  
Skyler Melvill  
Breanna Keldgord  
Sarah Tweedy  
Delaney Wilson  
Aliya Davis  
Olivia Oetken

Abigail Bixler  
Abbie Liechty  
Kirsten Smith  
Shawna Sammons  
Lauren Perron  
Kinsey Bruggemeyer  
Rylee Amos

Ashley Schinstock  
Chelsea Lanphier-Richland  
Sarah Melsha-Anamosa  
Kaysey Bos- Geneseo, Ill.  
Michelle Stalder-Cedar Rapids

## Obituaries

### Roger "Dean" Crabill

Mr. Roger "Dean" Crabill, 69, of Mount Pleasant, died November 28, 2014 at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City.

Mr. Crabill was born April 18, 1945 in New London, the son of James and Mildred Crabill. On November 9, 1962 at Burlington, Iowa he married Betty Roxlau. They later divorced. On December 6, 1997, he married Marvel Corrine Schleif Philp in Washington. He was a graduate of Burlington High school 1964 and received his AA degree at Southeast Iowa Community College in West Burlington.

Mr. Crabill was a career Navy man enlisting while still in High school in 1962. He served active duty during Vietnam and Desert Storm, retiring in 1993. While in the service he served on the East Coast at the Great Lakes where he was Commander of the Naval Training Center. He taught at the University of Notre Dame for four years and was involved with the ROTC, he retired as Master Chief Quarter Master. Upon retirement from the service he farmed with his brother Jim.

He was a member of the American Legion, Retired Enlisted Association, and the Fleet Reserve Association. Mr. Crabill enjoyed restoring antique tractors, Old Threshers, and his grandchildren. He is survived by his wife of Mount Pleasant; two sons Scott Allen (Theresa) Crabill, David Lynn (Mary Beth) Crabill both of Dubuque; one daughter, Christa Ann (Keith) Duffie of Gladstone, Ill; two stepsons, Douglas (Nadine) Philp of Bismark, N.D., Scot (Linda) Philp of New Hampton; two stepdaughters, Denise (John) Goddard of Nichols, and Jill (Jeff) Baker of Mount Pleasant; ten grandchildren; two sisters, Donna Jean Smith of Mount Pleasant, and Joan (Bill) Mathers of New London, three brothers John (Marilyn) Crabill of Lomax, Ill, Ken (Joann) Crabill of Keosauqua, Don (Carol) Crabil of Redbud, Ill.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Jim Crabill, and one grandson, Grant Baker. Memorials have been established for Henry County Hospice and The American Legion Post 0058.

### Larry E. Holmes

Larry Edwin Holmes, age 69 of Kahoka, Missouri passed away Saturday, November 29, 2014 at the Clark County Nursing Home after a long fought battle with cancer. He was born on March 31, 1945 in Winchester, Missouri to Harold and Wilhelmine (Willie) Bick Holmes. He married Nancie McBride Bevans in

Kahoka, Missouri on February 15, 1986, at the Kahoka Christian Church.

Survivors include his wife Nancie, of Kahoka; his sister Joyce (Michael) Meinhardt of Lansing, Kansas; his mother-in-law Bertha McBride of Farmington, Iowa; children Teresa (Jim) Norton, Mike (Kari) Bevans, John (Melissa) Bevans, a bonus child Curtis (Marlena) Mack all of Kahoka, MO; grandchildren; Melissa (Michael) Campbell, Justin Florea, Grant and Garrett Bevans, Chase, Chandler and Carissa Bevans, Camron and Conner Mack, all of Kahoka and Aleta Florea of Hamilton, Illinois; great grandchildren; Rylea and Amarah Lewis, Garrison and Kynzler Campbell, all of Kahoka, and Keagan Bell of Hamilton; two aunts, Neta Mae Holmes of Jefferson City, Missouri and Blanche Holmes of Keokuk, Iowa; brothers-in-law and sister-in-law, Ronald DeWitt of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and Clair (Marlene) McBride of Farmington, Iowa; as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents; father-in-law, Clair McBride; his daughter, Terri Beth Holmes; great-grandson Kyler Campbell; sister in infancy, Linda; brother, Donald Holmes; and sister-in-law Betty Jean (Jeannie) DeWitt.

Larry was a 1963 graduate of Kahoka High School and attended Northeast Missouri State Teacher's College.

He was a member of the Clark County/Kahoka Fire Department for over forty years until ill health made him give it up. He served in the Army Reserves for six years as a heavy equipment operator.

Larry helped his dad blade snow for the Clark County schools and other Kahoka businesses, churches, and private residents from 1958 to 2000. Over the years he worked for the Army Ammunition Plant, Wiss and Wiss Implement, Trump Farms, Redding Seed and Supply, Ramsey's Sawmill and Trump Trucks. He was a life time farmer in Clark County doing custom combining and hay-baling for various farmers. From a young age he helped his dad do Allis Chalmers tractor repair in their shop. At the age of twelve, his dad had him take apart an Allis Chalmers WD tractor. Once he had it apart, his dad told him to put it back together. He did. And it ran!

He loved working on antique tractors and classic cars, helping to preserve the past for future generations to enjoy. His knowledge of antique tractors and classic cars was extensive and the information he was able to share with others will be missed. He was a founding member of the Clark County 2-Cylinder Club, the Missouri Chapter of the International Harvester Club, the

Minneapolis and Moline Corresponder Club, receiving the Volunteer of Year Award in 2010 from the Allis Connection Club, and the Missouri Allis Chalmers Chapter. He served on the board of directors at the Western Illinois Threshers for many years, and the Mount Pleasant Old Threshers, receiving the volunteer of the year award in 2012. Larry was involved in drag racing in Kahoka in the 1960's and he won the first Demolition Derby at the Clark County Fair.

He was proud of his children and grandchildren and loved them very much. He also enjoyed spending time and reminiscing with his antique tractor friends. Memorials are suggested to the Clark Co. Local Cancer Fund.

### Joan E. Stevens

Joan Stevens, 89, of Mt. Pleasant, died April 14, 2015, at the Pleasant Manor Care Center.

Born July 16, 1925 in rural Mt. Union, IA, Joan Esteleen was the daughter of Otis Franklin and Edna Lenora "Nora" (Lauer) Myers. She attended school in the Mt. Union Community Schools graduating in 1942. She attended Iowa Wesleyan College for one year. On June 20, 1943 she married Charles William Stevens at the Mt. Union Methodist Church. He preceded her in death on October 7, 2003.

A lifelong homemaker, Joan devoted her time with her husband and family on the family farm until 1987. From 1987-1989, the couple resided in Arkansas. They moved to Mt. Pleasant in 1989.

For over 30 years Joan and Charles wintered in Arizona. They spent many summers traveling through the United States and Canada. Joan was a volunteer for the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion and was one of the first members of the North Village Saloon Singers. For over 30 years she sang with this group, and for 10 years, she was the leader of the group. She was a 50+ year member of the New London Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter 440. She was an active member of First United Methodist Church.

Survivors include a daughter, Nancy Stevens of Mt. Pleasant; two nephews, Richard Aldrich of Riverside, CA and Dean Hudson of Lakewood, CO; and numerous grand nieces, nephews and cousins.

Preceding her in death are her parents; her husband, Charles; and two sisters, Grace Hudson and Veteus Aldrich.

Memorials have been established to First United Methodist Church and Iowa Wesleyan College.

**Obituaries cont.**

**Patricia Johnson**

Patricia M. Johnson, 88, died, August 4, at Pleasant Manor Care Center.

Born August 26, 1926 in Burlington, she was the daughter of Paul and Mary (Gillis) Schaefer. On February 23, 1946 she married Cecil R. Johnson in Kahoka, Missouri. He preceded her in death on April 25, 1985.

Mrs. Johnson attended Burlington schools and was a homemaker. She also worked in the kitchen at Henry County Health Center, home health care and babysat for her nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Johnson attended New London Christian Church, a 50-year member of Order of Eastern Star in Kahoka, Missouri and Ladies of the Moose Lodge #579 Auxiliary. She loved to camp, sew, crochet, animals, play with her grandchildren and holidays spent with her family. She and her husband helped the New London Traveling Tigers develop the Old Threshers Campground. Survivors include four sons, Terry C. (Barb) Johnson of Baring, Missouri, Wayne E. (Dee) Johnson and Gary Van Johnson both of Danville and Harry Lee Johnson of Mt Pleasant; one daughter, Sharon (Neil) Cornwell of Winfield; 17 grandchildren; 40 great grandchildren; 9 great-great grandchildren; and one brother, Gary Schaefer of Alabama.

Besides her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, one brother Paul Schaefer and one daughter-in-law Linda Johnson.

Memorials have been established for Children's Miracle Network and Henry County Dialysis.

**Continued from page 8**

**At right is an update for The Elusive '54: first and second editions. Be sure to add it to your book!**



**The Old Threshers grounds come alive weeks before the Reunion. There is much to do to get ready.**



**ENGINE PORTRAITS**

	MODEL	OWNER
<b>YEAR</b>		
2015	1910 16 hp Gaar Scott	Nelson Smith, Brighton, IA

**EARLY BIRD/VOLUNTEER BUTTONS**

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBVERSE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2015	56 mm	266 Purple White	Silver	Silver L	-	Market, not sold by OT

**MEMBERSHIP/SOUVENIR BUTTONS**

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBVERSE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2015	56 mm	266 Purple White Black	Silver	Silver L	-	\$1.00

**EXHIBITOR/STAFF BUTTONS**

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBVERSE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2014	46mm by 71mm	216 Yellow White Black	Silver	Silver L	-	Market, not sold by OT
2015	Likely will be: 46mm by 71mm	Likely will be: 266 Purple Black White	Silver	Silver L	-	Market, not sold by OT