



**2016 by the Numbers**

35,855 visitors to the Old Threshers Reunion  
 152 Registered Cars & Trucks  
 729 Gas Engines  
 102 Full and Model Steam Engines  
 1,032 Tractors and Farm Equipment  
 7,060 visitors to the Haunted House  
 12,655 people attended Haunted Rails  
 License plates from 56 Iowa Counties and 20 States  
 Festival of Lights—1,000 visitors and still counting

**40,640 hours given by 830 volunteers**

The 2017 30-hour volunteer award features Bob and Vicki Gerdes' 1909 Stanley Steamer.



The 2017 OT souvenir button features a 1905 12T Kelly Springfield Road Roller owned by Dave & Jean Gross of Centennial, CO and The Heerd Family of Mt. Pleasant.

**WHAT IS IT? WHERE IS IT?**

Look at the photos below. Can you tell what it is? And where it might be found on the Old Threshers Grounds?

Look for the answers on page 5.



**VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BACKBONE OF OLD THRESHERS**

Looking back at 2016 we were truly blessed throughout all our events with great weather, awesome crowds and above all, outstanding volunteers. The Association could not provide the quality events it does without the dedication of its volunteer force.

These volunteers offer support to the Old Threshers staff in every aspect of the events held on the Old Threshers grounds. Whether helping with the daunting task of setting up the grounds for the annual Old Threshers Reunion, selling tickets to the Thrashers House of Terror or setting up displays for the Festival of Lights, these volunteers are the gears that keep this great machine going.

A staggering 40,640 hours were given to Old Threshers in 2016 by 830 volunteers. Each volunteer has his or her favorite area or event to be a part of and together, they make Midwest Old Threshers one of the best places to work and play. The next volunteer opportunity will be School Tours during the month of May. Anyone interested in volunteering for this or any event should contact the Old Threshers office at 319-385-8937.



Judy and Don Miller work at the North Village Information Booth during the 2016 Old Threshers Reunion. The Millers are members of a volunteer force that numbered 830 in 2016.

**FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS SHOWCASES OVER 100 DISPLAYS**

The Mt. Pleasant Festival of Lights is in its fourth year and has grown from 75 to over 100 displays. Twenty volunteers helped the Old Threshers staff put up the displays beginning in October. There are 80 volunteers signed up to help sell tickets to the event this year that spans 34 nights. So far this season, those volunteers have dealt with wind, rain, snow and frigid temperatures. This weekend, the weekend before Christmas, promises to throw ice into the mix. Their dedication does not go unnoticed. The building that houses Camper Registration during the Reunion makes a nice warming house. A burn barrel stocked with wood warms fingers and toes. Despite the winter weather, visitors come from Illinois, Missouri and other parts of Iowa including from as far away as Des Moines.

Festival of Lights would not be possible without the 114 businesses and individual sponsors. Their names can be found next to the display they are sponsoring. Some are so big, visitors will see several sponsors for one display.

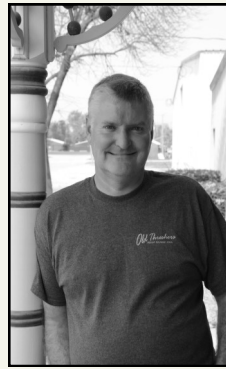
There is still time to come see the lights. Open from 5:30-9 nightly through December 31st.



(From left) Rusty from North Pole Productions, FOL volunteers Linda Enearl and Rich Garrels set up a snow globe. Hidden behind Linda is OT CEO Terry McWilliams. The globe is new to the FOL. By the end of the 34-night attraction, 100 volunteers will have worked to make it possible.



## GREETINGS FROM OLD THRESHERS



Terry McWilliams, CEO

It seems like the holidays this year are all melding into one almost seamless series of celebrations. We had just finished a great 2016 Old Threshers Reunion and two days later our volunteers and staff began to unload semi-trailers full of Halloween props and materials into the just vacated Antique Car Building. After weeks of fast and furious construction and installation, the newest edition of the Thrashers House of Terror was ready to open its doors and scare the daylights out of the visitors who dared to enter.

The haunted house crew created a wonderfully frightening environment filled with sights, sounds, and illusions fit for anyone intent of raising their blood pressure. The haunt was very well attended through its thirteen nights of operation as were the four weekends of the Midwest Haunted Rails when Old Threshers joins the Midwest Central Railroad to transform the grounds into a special Halloween experience for the entire family. I wish to thank the 200+ volunteers that made the month of October a record breaker for attendance on both Halloween events.

But just as the Thrashers House of Terror and Haunted Rails were getting into full fright, semi-trailers appeared filled with thousands of Christmas lights. The next day would see the beginnings of the Mount Pleasant Festival of Lights holiday installation in our 60-acre campground. North Pole Productions has eight holiday light display clients including Albany, New York, Branson, Mo and Old Threshers. Old Threshers is the smallest client of North Pole Productions, but we have been blessed with the financial support of a large number of donors and sponsors who are making the project possible. Old Threshers was able to sign another 3 year deal with North Pole Productions for 2016 -2018.

As I look back on 2016 at Old Threshers, I have to say thanks to everyone. We had an amazing year with great events and projects. We started off the 2016 year with a new way to share our information with over 80,000 households, hundreds of camping reservations and an amazing music line up for the Reunion. The school tour program allowed us to share the Old Threshers story with over 1,000 kids in the spring. The Theatre Seminar, Steam School, Greater Iowa Swap and the Bussey Doll event once again packed our spring months. The warmer months then lead us into a long list of projects: trolley track work, construction of a new storage building, restroom remodels, new grounds lighting, computerizing the camper grounds sites, Pleasant Lawn School refurbish, and many more across the grounds.

Even as we are winding down the programs and projects for 2016, we are already well into the planning and implementation stage on many of the projects and events for the 2017 season at Old Threshers. So mark your calendar for Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> to Sept 4<sup>th</sup> for the annual Old Threshers Reunion.

The 2017 year will be no different. The list of projects and events will be led by more restroom remodeling, work on our ground trains, drainage problems in the campgrounds, trolley car restoration and repairs, more new grounds lighting and a new Bussey Doll and Antique Clothing Museum display, just to name a few. I'm asking for a "can do attitude" by everyone at Old Threshers in 2017. With a positive attitude we all can do great things together for the betterment of the association. "A bad attitude is like a flat tire. You can't go anywhere until you change it!" In 2017 the Association will be moving forward with positive support from the Board of Directors, Volunteers, Exhibitors, Visitors and staff to create that Can Do Attitude! Thank you all for a great 2016 and I can't wait to see what we can all accomplish together in 2017.

"One of the real joys of the Holiday Season is the opportunity to say Thank You and to wish you the very best for the New Year!" From my family - my wife Cyndi, my kids Brady, Nathan and Rachel - to you and yours - Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

P.S. Don't forget to mark your calendars for Aug. 31 to Sept. 4, 2017.

## FEATURED FOR 2017



### Featured Gas Engine

"Bullseye Engines"  
1915 Bullseye Sideshaft 4 1/2 HP  
Alex Rauscher—Lockridge, IA



### Featured Tractor

1918 Moline Universal  
Carl & Maribelle Lund—Mt. Pleasant, IA



### Featured Garden Tractor

1969 Minneapolis-Moline 114  
Mark & Bev Weirather—Keokuk, IA



### Featured Steam Engine

1905 12T Kelly Springfield Steam Roller  
Dave & Jean Gross—Centennial, CO  
The Heerd Family—Mt. Pleasant, IA



### Featured Truck

1967 Dodge Straight Truck  
George & Janet Janecek—Washington, IA



### Featured Car

1909 Sears Motor Buggy  
John (Jack) & Marlene Daly—Burlington, IA



# THOT: 13 NIGHTS OF FRIGHT



Actors in the Thrashers House of Terror gather for a group picture prior to opening on Friday, October 21st. A total of 125 volunteers worked to offer 13 nights of fright to more than 7,000 visitors.



## OBITUARIES Continued from page 11

Equipment Association. He was a member of the Federated Insurance Equipment Dealers Advisory Council. He served on the Board of Directors and was Chairman of the Board of the Pilot Grove Savings Bank. He served on the Advisory Board of the Ft. Madison Community Hospital and was President of the Marquette School Board.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Joan; daughter Sylvia Wetta (Robert) of Vestavia Hills, AL; sons J.J. Nichting of Palm Springs, CA, Thomas Nichting (Janet) of Omaha, NE, and Michael Nichting (Heather) of Rochester, NY; grandchildren Bryan Wetta (Luisa), Michael Wetta (Kristen), Emily Buerger (Fritz), Kathryn and Mark Nichting; great-grandchildren Ben, Megan,

Claire, Jack, Caroline, Charles Sylvan, and Henry Wetta, and Madeline Buerger. He is also survived by two sisters, Glorine Pieper (William) and Pat Winnike (Gene, deceased). Sylvan was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters who died at birth, Mary Ann and Eileen.

A memorial has been established for St. James Catholic Church. Online condolences to the Nichting Family may be made at the Barr-Holtkamp Funeral Home website, [www.barrholtkampfuneralhome.com](http://www.barrholtkampfuneralhome.com).

### John G. Broadhead

John G. Broadhead age 73 of Colchester, Ill., passed away November 12, at Memorial Hospital, Springfield, Illinois. He was born January 9, 1943, in

Macomb to Ray E. and Ollie L. Schnautz Broadhead. John was united in marriage on April 3, 1965, at the Argyle Bible Church in Colchester, to Helen L. McClure.

Surviving to mourn his passing are his wife of 51 years, Helen Broadhead, Colchester, 3 Sons: John N Broadhead and Cheryl Stevens, Colchester; James L. Broadhead and Crystal Walters, Colchester; Jeff W. (Sherri) Broadhead, Tennessee, Ill.; 1 Daughter: Julie A. (Chris) Towery, Beardstown; 6 Grandchildren: Ben Broadhead, Sydney Broadhead, Payton Broadhead, C.J. Towery, Taylor Towery, Tara Towery, 2 Brothers: Douglas (Carolyn) Broadhead, Virden, Illinois; and Phillip (Barbara) Broadhead, Castle Rock, Colorado.

John was preceded in death by his parents.

He was a member of Argyle Bible Church, South East Iowa Gas Engine Club, Midwest Old Threshers, Eastern Iowa Threshers, Participated in the Western Illinois Threshers, served as a Boy Scout Leader, when his boys were in scouts, John was well known for his ham and beans. He loved wood working, hunting, fishing and camping. John had been with Arnold Brothers Heating and Cooling in Macomb for over 33 years. His greatest love of all was the time he got to spend with his family.

Memorials are to Midwest Old Threshers, Western Illinois Threshers, American Diabetes Foundation.

Condolences may be expressed to the family at [Jonesmortuaryfh.com](http://Jonesmortuaryfh.com).

## DANIELLE BROEKER NAMED 2016 MISS SWEET 16

Danielle Broeker, Mt. Pleasant, was crowned 2016 Miss Sweet 16 on Reunion Sunday. She and 14 other participants spent the Reunion at different places around the grounds helping sell souvenirs, guiding visitors to their destinations and being ambassadors for Old Threshers.

Anyone interested in being a part of the 2017 Miss Sweet 16 needs to be 16 by June 1, 2017 and should contact the Old Threshers office at 319-385-8937.



Above: 2016 Miss Sweet 16 Court (L-R) Miss Volunteer Natalie Smith, 2nd Runner-up—Alaythia Wissman, Miss Sweet 16—Danielle Broeker, 1st Runner-up—Sydney Hedgepeth .



Left: 2016 Miss Sweet 16 participants (front row L-R) Brittany Triska—Mt. Pleasant; Natalie Smith—Alleman; Sydney Hedgepeth—Johnston; Marissa Scheer—Louden; Lilly VanAmerongen—Winfield; Danielle Broeker—Mt. Pleasant, Lauren George—New London. (Back row L-R) Alaythia Wissman—Milford, NE; Sami Rosell—Mt. Pleasant; Lizzy Heerd—Mt. Pleasant; Savannah Jolouski—Mt. Pleasant; Hollie Nelson—Lockridge; Natalena Rumley—Leon; Starr Bujanowski—Mt. Pleaant; Tuesday Krabill—Mt. Pleasant.

## WINNERS OF THE 2016 OT PHOTO CONTEST



Congratulations to the winners of the 2016 Midwest Old Threshers Photo Contest!

- 1st Place Michael Savago of Lamont, Iowa wins \$100 for his amazing spark show photo.
- 2nd place (\$50) is Kalayna Durr of Mt. Pleasant with the horse photo.
- 3rd place (\$25) goes to Melissa Kruse-Herbaugh of Salem, Iowa.

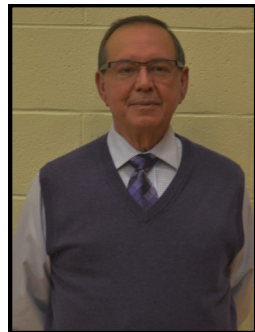
Thanks to all who sent in pictures and we look forward to doing this again next year!





A Financial Support Organization for Midwest Old Threshers

## FOUNDATION CELEBRATES THREE DECADES OF GROWTH



Alan Huisinga, Foundation Executive Director

It is my pleasure, as Executive Director, to provide a brief overview of the Old Threshers Foundation during this past year. The Foundation reached a milestone in 2016 – our 30<sup>th</sup> year of operation. The Foundation was established in February 1986 with \$40,000. And now, 30 years later, the Foundation's assets have grown to **\$2,021,139.16!** Of that total, current (cash assets) are \$1,454,339.16 and fixed assets (our Illinois farm on a cost basis) is \$566,800.00.

The purpose of the Foundation is to provide financial assistance to Midwest Old Threshers. During these past 30 years, the Foundation has given **\$1,106,733.85** in earnings to Old Threshers to fund various capital projects and improvements. Some of those projects during the past several years have included contributions toward:

- Trolley track work
- Restroom upgrades
- New storage building
- Traction steam headquarters building
- New museum display for cars, trucks and fire department
- Seed money for a new museum to display antique dolls and clothing

The Foundation Board voted last year to change the formula used which would allow the Foundation to pass along more earnings to Midwest Old Threshers. So this year the Foundation will contribute its farm rent of \$54,000 plus 5% of the three-year rolling average of the fair market value, which together equals nearly \$109,000, to Midwest Old Threshers toward the following capital projects and improvements in 2017:

- Ground train and trolley car restoration
- Antique doll and clothing museum
- Restroom remodel
- Terrace drainage in the campground
- Grounds LED lighting project

At the Foundation's annual board meeting in November, the following new board members were elected: Alan Elgar, Kendall Graber, Greg Kinney, Jeff Sitar and Mary Wettach. Congratulations and welcome to the board! Their terms will begin at the next quarterly board meeting in February, 2017. The following officers were reelected: Todd Mabeus, president; John Jensen, vice president; Melinda Huisinga, secretary; and Jason Goody, treasurer.

As you approach year-end and consider your charitable contributions for this tax year, please keep our Old Threshers Foundation in mind. Remember your gifts to our Foundation qualify as charitable contributions to a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization for Federal income, estate and gift tax purposes. In addition to monetary contributions to either the pass through account or the endowment, other ways to support the Foundation include: a will bequest, a designation as a life insurance beneficiary, IRA, and/or a gift of appreciated stock. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

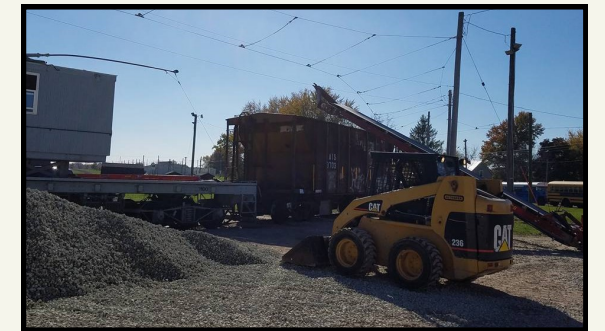
On behalf of the Foundation Board, we thank all of you for your continued support which enables us to fulfill our mission of providing financial support to Midwest Old Threshers. May you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy new year!

Alan D. Huisinga, Executive Director

## TRACKWORK COMPLETED ON THE MIDWEST ELECTRIC RWY

One of the projects funded in 2016 by the Old Threshers Foundation was track work on the Midwest Electric Railway. That work started during the summer months and finished in October. Ties were replaced, new ballast was added all the way around and the grade up the hill by Grandpa's Barn was lowered. These improvements will allow for safe operation for years to come.

Thanks to Larry Kolo and his crew as well as volunteers from the Midwest Electric Railway, Midwest Central Railroad and Midwest Old Threshers.



## O B I T U A R I E S continued from page 10

aunt Minnie Campbell. As most young brides did, when Kenneth joined the armed forces to help in the war effort, Frances moved in with her mother and father during his service overseas. In February of 1956, they moved north of Hedrick. Frances worked part time at Graham's Department Store in Sigourney during the Holiday season. She also worked at the Hedrick Grocery Store from 1963-1989. She last worked part-time at Le Gift Store in Hedrick. Kenneth and Frances took great interest in the youth of rural Keokuk County. They would host high school age kids in their home so they could complete their high school careers. Frances has been keeping scrapbooks since 1938, and enjoyed

collecting many items including, owl figurines, spoons, thimbles, cups, pens, keychains, and matchbooks among other things. The two of them enjoyed 29 continuous years of camping at the Iowa State Fair and 31 years camping at the Old Thresher's Reunion in Mt. Pleasant. They also enjoyed working at the Old Threshers on the train, in the information booth. Frances also enjoyed taking bus trips with friends. Kenneth died September 18, 2007. On June 26, 2008, Frances moved to Oskaloosa. She attended the Central United Methodist Church and Women's Circle Christian Challenge 1. She enjoyed, flower and vegetable gardening, crocheting, going out to lunch with family and friends,

cleaning, family genealogy, and attending neighborhood club. Her home was always spic and span and perfectly decorated for every holiday. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Her family includes her two children and their spouses, Jim and Mary Spears of Hedrick and Jones and Dennis Molyneux of Rose Hill; three grandchildren, Janean (Curt) Dimmig, Annette (Joseph) Roe and Devan (Fiance B.G. DeGeest) Lamberson; 5 great grandchildren, Triston, Talon, Ty Roe, Cauyer, Tieron Lamberson. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents.

### Sylvan J. Nichting

Sylvan Joseph Nichting, retired President and CEO of J.J. Nichting Co., Inc., a lifelong resident of Pilot Grove, Iowa passed away October 22, at age 90.

He was born September 19, 1926 to Joseph J. and Virgilia Nichting. On October 14, 1952 he was united in marriage to Joan M. Holtkamp at St. John's Catholic Church in Houghton, Iowa.

Sylvan was an active lifetime member of St. James Catholic Church in St. Paul, Iowa. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, West Point Council. He served on the first International Harvester Dealer Advisory Board and the Case-IH Dealer Advisory Board. He was President and Director of the Iowa-Nebraska Farm

Continued on page 12



## OBITUARIES

**Duane L. Goff**

Duane L. Goff, 78, of Mt. Pleasant, died September 27, at his residence.

Duane Lee Goff was born September 19, 1938 in Ottumwa. He was the son of Leonard Ray and Alta Merle (McCoy) Goff. Duane was raised in Batavia and graduated from Batavia High School in 1956. On March 21, 1965 at the Batavia Methodist Church, Duane was united in marriage to Judith Raye (McConnell) Goff.

After his high school education, Duane graduated from the Broadlawns/Polk Co. Hospital School of Nursing in 1961. He entered the United States Army in January of 1962 at Ft. Des Moines. Duane was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Nurses Corp. He was honorably discharged as a 1st Lieutenant in January of 1964 at Ft. Riley, KA. Duane then began studies at the Minneapolis School of Anesthesia for Nurses, graduating in 1967. He was an anesthetist at various locations, including Princeton, IL for 8 years, LaSalle-Peru, IL for a year and a half and Henry County Health Center in Mt. Pleasant for 14 years. He then supplied various hospitals for anesthetist services on a private basis. To begin retirement, Duane worked at the switchboard of both the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and the Ottumwa Regional Medical Center, until he fully retired.

Duane was a member of the Princeton Christian Church and Mt. Pleasant Lodge #8 AF & AM. He volunteered an untold number of hours in several capacities at Midwest Old Threshers. Duane was a gifted organist and pianist.

He played at several churches, includes longtime service to the Congregational Church of Mt. Pleasant and First Baptist Church of Ottumwa.

Those thankful for sharing in Duane's life include his wife of 51 years, Judy of Mt. Pleasant; 2 sons and their wives – David & Amy Goff of Bridgeman, MI and Darrell & Brenda Goff of Muscatine; 5 grandchildren – Levi Goff, Logan Goff, Lexi Goff & special friend Joe Williams; Alec Goff and Haley Goff and 1 great grandchild, Ryker Williams.

His parents and grandparents precede Duane in death.

Those considering an expression of sympathy may direct memorials to the Boy Scouts of America, St. Jude's Children's Hospital or Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children. Online condolences may be directed to [www.kimzeyfuneralhome.com](http://www.kimzeyfuneralhome.com)

**Joyce Elaine (Rich) Stull**

Joyce Elaine (Rich) Stull, 85, of Lincoln, NE (formerly Mt. Pleasant), died Friday, October 7, at Clark Jeary Assisted Living. Her loving husband and daughter were by her side. Joyce, the 6th of 9 children, was born on October 27, 1930 in Wayland, IA to Nicholas & Oleta (Smith) Rich. She later moved to Mt. Pleasant with her family and spent most of her life residing there. She married Bobby Joe Stull of Mt. Pleasant in 1963. Together, they raised one daughter, Jill. Joyce worked faithfully as a bookkeeper

and secretary for a small manufacturing firm in Mt. Pleasant for 40 years. Her true joy, however, came from spending time with her brothers and sisters and their families, unselfishly caring for her mother and mother-in-law in their later years, working with Bob in his business, Stull Electric, and spending as much time as she could with her two granddaughters, Allison and Anna. Some of her interests included flower gardening, shopping with her Beta Sigma Phi sorority friends, cooking and baking for holiday meals with family, inviting friends over for dinner, Iowa Hawkeye football/basketball, the color blue, anything Christmas and lovingly spoiling her granddaughters.

Joyce had a strong faith in Jesus Christ and was a lifelong member of the First Baptist Church of Mt. Pleasant. She was a tireless volunteer, teaching Sunday School and serving on many committees, particularly the kitchen committee where she put her talents to work in service to the church. She was known as a humble, kind and caring woman who preferred quiet, personal conversation to being in the spotlight.

Joyce is survived by her husband of 53 years, Bobby Joe Stull; daughter, Jill (Patrick) Hurlbut; granddaughters, Allison & Anna Hurlbut all of Lincoln; brothers, Edward (Marcia) Rich of Lockridge, IA, Will Rich of Clayton, GA, James (Jan) Rich of Port St. Lucie, FL; sisters, Lorraine Swanson of Arlington, TX, Doris Ann Hall of Safety Harbor, FL; brothers-in-law, Lyle Zear of Washington, IA,

Ted (Phyllis) Stull, Canyon, TX, Keith Thomas, Canon City, CO; and many nieces & nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Marvin & Dean Rich; and sister, LaVon Zear.

Memorials are suggested to the First Baptist Church, 100 E. Webster St., Mt. Pleasant, IA or to the Alzheimer's Association.

**Frances M. Spears**

Frances M. Spears, 91, of Oskaloosa and formerly of Hedrick, died October 20, at the MHP Hospital in Oskaloosa. She was born December 7, 1924, in the family home near Hedrick, Iowa, the daughter of Clay B. and Icel Mae Hawthorne Campbell. Frances was baptized at a young age at the Martinsburg United Methodist Church. She attended Lone Tree Country School and went on to attend Competine Township High School. While in school Frances was active in musical operettas, played forward on the basketball team and was the carnival queen her Jr. year.

On January 16, 1941, she was united in marriage to Kenneth D. Spears at Lancaster, Missouri. Following their marriage, they moved to a farm east of Fremont. They later moved to a farm northeast of Martinsburg that was owned by her

Continued on page 11

## LADIES OF LETTERPRESS AND PRINTERS' FAIR JOIN FORCES

Following on the heels of the 2016 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion, the Ladies of Letterpress sponsored Type on the Cob III at Printers' Hall. Members were able to collaborate with participants of the Great Northern Printers Fair at the Mid-September event. Ideas, techniques and expertise were shared between the two groups. Workshops were offered and vendors were on hand selling letterpress equipment. Both groups have held events at Old Threshers, this was the first year they were held concurrently.



(Above) Members of Ladies of Letterpress and participants of the Great Northern Printers' Fair gather for a group photo taken by Mel Stockwell.



Join us for the 2017 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion August 31-Sept 4

For a Limited Time Only!\*

Buy a Five-day Admission for \$20!

Don't Miss Out!  
Makes a perfect stocking stuffer!  
Call 319-385-8937

\*Sale ends December 23rd. Kids 10 and under are free.



## WHAT IS IT? WHERE IS IT?

Look on page 14 for pictures of things that can be found around the Old Threshers Grounds. Can you identify what they are and where one can find them? The answers are found below.

- A:** Oil cup on a Case steam engine. These come in different sizes and can also be found on stationary steam engines.  
**B:** Steele wheel of a gas tractor in Tractorland. Several manufactures feature these. **C:** Close up of an Altman-Taylor tractor and the trademark Starved Rooster. **D:** A VW Dune Buggy on display at the Antique Car Area. **E:** Corn shellers on display at the Corn Items Collectors' Assn. tent. Shellers can be found in the Gas Engine area as well. **F:** Hand tools found in the Wood Shop at the Log Village.



# 2016 MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS REUNION



**Continued from page 8**  
in truck and car repair and machine and welding for many years. He has been involved with Old Threshers since 1967. For many years, he has ran some of the big gas engines. He and his son, Mike, he show gas engines. He had a 1949 Chevy pickup truck with a canopy. They slept in the bed of the truck.

**Stephen R. Borleske**  
Stephen is from Onalaska, Wisconsin. He was born in Madison, Minnesota and raised in Wisconsin. He attended Wartburg College and received in Bachelors of Arts in Chemistry. He is a Research and Development Food Technologist. He has worked with the Midwest Electric Railway since 2005 serving as a conductor, motorman, and is part of the track gang.

**Chris Pacha**  
Chris is from Davenport, Iowa. He has been married to Lorraine for 33 years. He has two daughters and a son. Born and raised in East Pleasant Plain, Iowa, Chris graduated from St. Ambrose College in Davenport in 1974. He has worked for the railroad industry for 44 years. He retired in 2011. Chris started volunteering in 1973 mostly with the Midwest Central Railroad. He displayed and operated a 1911 Rumely for several years. He has also worked with Larry Colo on track rehabilitation and track projects for Midwest Central Railroad and Midwest Electric Railway.

**Larry Colo**  
Larry is from Geneseo, Iowa. He has been married for 58 years. He has four children, ten grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren. He was born and raised in Des Moines. Larry worked for Rock Island Railroad for 24 years as a brakeman and conductor. He started RR Construction business in 1985. He has rebuilt railroads in a 1000 mile radius. Larry has been a volunteer for six years and has done various railroad work for Midwest Central Railroad and the Midwest Electric Railway. He is also on the board of directors of the Patriot Renewable Fuels.

**Sadie VanAmerongen**  
Sadie is from New London, Iowa. She is the daughter of Brian and Nikole Howell. Her grandparents are Bonnie and Steve Vogler, and Bob and Femeitta Woodall. Sadie is a nursing assistant at New London Specialty Care. Sadie started out parking campers in the campground. Her uncle, Jeff VanAmerongen, got her

interested in trolleys and she started volunteering 5 years ago. She was instrumental in painting and restoring the 1779 trolley car. She also participated in the Sweet 16 contest in 2010.

**Tim Pace**  
Tim and his wife, Konnie are from Muscatine, Iowa. They have 2 children. He was born and raised in Muscatine. He has enjoyed farming for many years. He began exhibiting and volunteering in the Tractor Area 35 years ago in 1981 by helping Dorothy Martin set up the Cavalcade of Power. He has many fond memories of this show.

**Sonny Pace**  
Sonny is from Muscatine, Iowa. He has been married to Barbara 63 years and he has four children. He was born and raised in Muscatine, Iowa and is a semi-retired farmer. He also has retired from being a rural mail carrier. He has been volunteering for Old Threshers in the Tractor Area for the past 35 years.

**Dawn Butler**  
Dawn has been married to John for 30 years and lives in Marion, Iowa. She is a mail clerk at Alliant Energy located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She has been volunteering in the Tractor Area for 25 years at the headquarters with registration and souvenir sales. She also drives the gas truck, works in the trolley area, and ticket booth.

**Donna Oliver**  
Donna is from Cambridge, Iowa. She is married to Ralph, director in the Tractor Area. She has two children, 5 grandsons, 1 granddaughter and 1 great granddaughter. Donna was born in Story City, Iowa. She graduated from Ames High School and had worked at Iowa State University in the Child development Laboratory School for 36 years. Donna started coming to Old Threshers in 1994. She has volunteered in Tractor Area and Tractor Headquarters, and many other areas. Family members were craft vendors for many years.

**Brant Knudsen**  
Brant was born in Des Moines and raised in Mt. Pleasant. He resides in Mt. Pleasant and is married to Bethany. They have one son. He is Director of Media at Faith Christian Outreach Church. Brant has been a gate worker for four years, griller for Elk burger stand and a Festival of Lights volunteer and committee member. One of Brant's highlights is that he has every Old Threshers button since he was born in 1987.

**Mary Keller**  
Mary is from Donnellson, Iowa. She has been married to John Keller for 67 years. Mary was born in Oklahoma, raised in Wyoming and moved to Iowa in 1960. A high school graduate and homemaker, Mary, whose image is on the 2015 Log Village cloisonné pin, has volunteered her time in the Log Village at Old Threshers for 26 years by sitting on the porch entertaining visitors by playing the Dulcimer for many hours.

**John Keller**  
John, known as Ron, married to Mary, was born in Powell, Wyoming. Both Mary and Ron are in their 80s. They are parents to six children, 15 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. Ron is retired from Contel Telephone Co. John, also, has volunteered at the Log Village for 26 years by working in the barn and with Explorer Post 1846. He has been a Scout for 68 years.

**Mickey Keller**  
Mickey is the son of Ron and Mary Keller. He lives in Ft. Madison, was born in Wyoming and raised in Iowa. Mickey attended college for 2 years. He is presently retired. Mickey has spent all of his volunteer hours in the Log Village helping to maintain the Blacksmith Shop by laying the floor and doing work on the roof. He has also, spent many hours with the children in the Log Village helping them with their wood working kits and with making rope.

**Over One Mile of Holiday Lighted Displays!**

**Mount Pleasant  
Festival of Lights**

**5:30-9:00  
PM**

**Nightly thru December 31st**



### 2016 OLD THRESHERS VOLUNTEER AWARDS



Front Row from L to R: Stephen Borleske, John (Jack) Folta, Pat Dietze, Melva & Jerry Sammons, Seth Orr, Troy Warth, William Warth, Todd Moore, Gale Swan. Back Row: Chris Pacha, Larry Kolo, Sadie VanAmerongen, Tim Pace, Sonny Pace, Dawn Butler, Donna Oliver, Brant Knudsen, Mickey Keller, John (Ron) Keller, Mary Keller. Not Pictured: Dayle Warth.

**Gale Swan**

Gale was born in Mt. Pleasant and raised in Libertyville, where he has lived at for 63 years. Gale graduated from Fairfield High School and attended Indian Hills College for two years studying mechanics. Gale is married to wife, Diana, and has three sons. He also has seven grandchildren. He and his wife have been married 46 years. Gale has attended the Old Threshers Reunion for 40 years, volunteering for the Horse Area. He was instrumental in purchasing the buckrake for the demonstrations. The Swans have been involved with the horses at Old Threshers for four generations.

**Todd Moore**

Todd was born in Washington, Iowa and raised at Columbus Junction. He graduated from Kirkwood high School and attended Midwest Horseshoeing School in Macomb, Illinois. He works at JWV Park in Washington in Mill Maintenance. Todd is married to Jennifer. They have 2 children. He has been attending Old Threshers for about the last 15 years and has volunteered in the horse barn for the last five.

**William and Dayle Warth**

William and Dayle are from New London, Iowa. They have two children, nine grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. William received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Iowa

Wesleyan has worked 30 years at A.Y. McDonald Supply. Dayle received a Bachelor of Science degree from Iowa Wesleyan and has been teaching for 30 years at New London Middle and High School.

They have both been working at Old Threshers for the past 17 years in camper hospitality, parking campers, and William as a handyman.

**Troy William Warth**

Troy is from Saint James, Missouri. He was born in Burlington, Iowa and raised in New London, Iowa. Troy is married to Michelle. He has three daughters, and one son. He is manager for Walmart Distribution. He has been attending the show since 1998 working in the campground, and a driver for the ground train.

**Seth Orr**

Seth was born and raised in Mt. Pleasant. His mother is Cheryl and grandfather, Lloyd Orr. Seth has been very involved in the pre-Reunion set up and Crafts as well as Thrashers House of Terror. He has been an actor, builder, and maintenance-repair guy since 1998. He grew up attending and working all around the Old Threshers grounds.

**Jerry and Melva Sammons**

Jerry and Melva are from Mt. Pleasant. Congratulations on 63 years of marriage

as of July 4, 2016! They have three sons, and a daughter. Six grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, and one great granddaughter. Their granddaughter Shawna Sammons is 2015 Miss Sweet 16. Jerry and Melva both graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School in 1953. Jerry went on to work at Iowa Army Ammunition Plant for 46 years. Melva worked at a dime store, Montgomery Ward, and HCHC. In the 1970s, they started volunteering at the souvenir stands. They have ran the red and white barn souvenir stand for many years. They enjoy the many friendships that they have made while here.

**Pat Dietze**

Pat has been married to Mike for 41 years. They have 1 daughter and two grandchildren. Pat was born at Alvo, Nebraska. She attended Waverly High School and worked for National Crane Corporation and is now working for Assurity Life Insurance Company as an underwriter in the worksite division. She started attending Old Threshers in 1977 with Mike. They have been gas engine exhibitors since 1978. She started volunteering about 35 years ago and now it is a family and social event to be here.

**John (Jack) Folta**

John is from Laddonia, Missouri. John is 87 years old. He was born and raised in Martinsburg, Missouri. John has worked

Continued on page 9



### 2016 MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS REUNION

