

1950

MIDWEST  
OLD THRESHERS

2025

## THRESHERS CHAFF

Volume 51, Issue 2

MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

Summer 2025

## Time to celebrate - 75 years of Old Threshers!

The campground is open, tractors and steam engines have been moved out of Museum A. A new welcome banner stretches across Walnut Street just before the main walk-in gate.

Rich and Jeanie Seberg have adorned the grounds with gorgeous flowering plants. The Old Threshers staff and volunteers have been hard at work keeping the grass cut during the past several weeks of rain and humidity.

One can feel the energy build as the OT board of directors, staff, volunteers, and the community get ready to host one heck of a party.

Plans to celebrate 75 years of Old Threshers started as early as last year. There will be several things happening before and throughout the five-day Reunion starting with the Harvest Day Parade on Wednesday, August 27th. The current board of directors along with past members will hop a ground train and lead the parade all carrying the title of Parade Marshals.

Look for the descendants of the Founding Fathers as they will also ride through the Harvest Parade.

The Ft. Madison High School band has been invited to join in the march making it the first time for two bands in the parade!



**Campers line up outside Gate 13 on opening day, August 16, for the Campground.**

Check out the horseshoe demonstration and sign-up in a tournament! Kids 10 and under will get a collectible bracelet when they enter the gate. Catch Toby in the Theatre Museum August 29th & 30th at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day.

## Silent auction! Own a one-of-a-kind painting

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We are thrilled to present a one-of-a-kind oil painting by local artist Annie Guldberg—available only at the 2025 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion! This stunning, hand-painted masterpiece captures the 110 Case traction steam engine in a way only Annie's work can. Whether you're an art collector, steam engine enthusiast, collector of all things Old Threshers, or simply looking for a unique treasure to adorn your home, this is an opportunity you won't want to miss!

**Auction Details:**

Artist: Annie Guldberg | Medium: Oil Painting  
Location: Midwest Old Threshers Foundation Room  
In Heritage Museum A  
Date: August 28-September 1  
Bidding Starts at: 9am on August 28  
Closing Time: 10am on September 1  
Don't miss your chance to own this extraordinary piece of art and support Midwest Old Threshers.

Visit the auction table in the OT Foundation Room to place your bid, and may the highest bidder take home this incredible painting! Good luck!



# ***"Celebrating 75 Years"***

Dear Old Threshers Friends and Family,

*"Midwestern threshermen and steam engine fans made Pontiac their rendezvous as they converged on Chautauqua Park this morning to attend Dan S. Zehr's first Steam Engine and Threshermen's Reunion." That was the lead paragraph in Les Bell's front-page story in the Pontiac Daily Leader on September 14, 1949.*



**Terry McWilliams, CEO  
Midwest Old Threshers**

The original idea to form the Midwest Old Threshers Association came from a discussion between Clark Everts, W.E. (Ted) Detrick, Ray H. Ernst, and Herman E. Elgar in September, 1949. The four were returning from the Zehr Threshing Reunion in Pontiac, Illinois. Considering the many steam engines and separators in Henry County, Iowa, the men decided there was great potential to host a threshing reunion in Mt. Pleasant.

After several winter meetings, the election of a Board of Directors and lengthy discussions about a Mt. Pleasant event, the Association was chartered on August 21, 1950, and the first Reunion was held September 20 and 21. Records show that 15 steam engines and 8 separators were exhibited with an estimated 10,000 people attending the first Reunion.

Now, fast forward 75 Years to Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> to Sept. 1, 2025, in the same location that it all started those two days in September 1950, McMillan Park, Mount Pleasant, Iowa. I wonder what the founding four might say today after seeing how the show has grown and changed over the last 75 Years. I hope that they would be amazed and happy with the last 75 years and ready for the next 75 years.

Yet, as I think about the last 75 years of Midwest Old Threshers, its not about the change in our agricultural heritage, it's not about the things now on display in the museums and during the show, it's not about the new buildings or other events and it's not about the ups and downs that the association has faced over the years.

For me, I think about the people who have made all happen over the years. The many generations of family's, volunteers, exhibitors, staff members, and Old Threshes board of directors that have given so much to keep the place alive. There has been over 100 different members of the Board of Directors, 3 administrators, many staff members, countless exhibitors, and a number too large to calculate of VOLUNTEERS. If it wasn't for all of these folks and their dedication to making Midwest Old Threshers the best it could be over the years, we wouldn't be here now Celebrating 75 years. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, to you all!

So, let me ask a favor of you this year! Which is to experience a part of the Reunion that you might not have done in the past. Make the time with the kids, with the grandkids, with the spouse and friends, old and new: enter that spelling bee in the North Village school, take a moment to set and rest in the shade of the Log Village, catch a show at the gazebo in Museum A, play a game of bingo, ride the carousel, ride the trolley, ride the train, or even go test your skills at drive a tractor. The list goes on of things that we all do that provide enjoyment for the visitors, but we all sometimes forget that we need to do those things as well.

I look forward to see all of you again this year at the Old Threshers Reunion, Aug. 28 to Sept. 1, 2025 as we Celebrate 75 Years of our history together. Thank you all for what you do to make this place such a special place in the hearts of many.

PS: Mark your calendars, Sept 3-7, 2026.

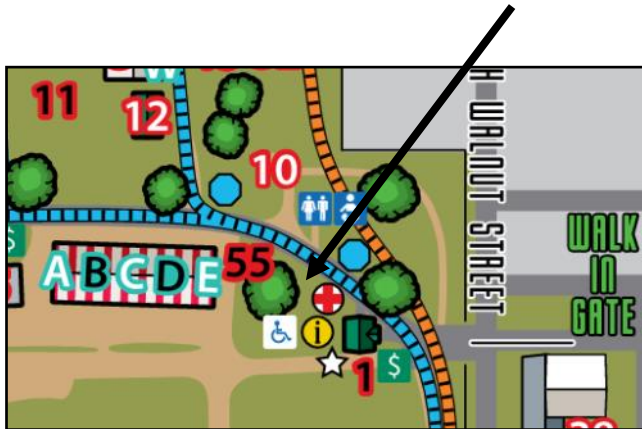
A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Terry", is located at the bottom right of the page.



# Horseshoes coming back to Midwest Old Threshers

How many of you remember participating or watching a Horseshoe Tournament at a Reunion? If you've never seen one, or want to relive the memory this is the year!

Be sure to make your way over just west of the Paul Anderson Welcome Center, near the Farm Collector Magazine tent to hear about the history of horseshoes, see a pitching demonstration, have the chance to pitch yourself and sign-up to be in a tournament. Happening Thursday-Sunday starting at 9 a.m.



For a complete map of the Reunion, go to <https://www.oldthreshers.org/reunion/visit-the-reunion/ground-map-of-the-reunion/>



## HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

**THURSDAY THRU SUNDAY**

**9AM** ----- **SPEAKER ON HISTORY OF HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT, RULES & TYPES OF SHOES**

**10AM** ----- **PITCHING DEMONSTRATION**

**11AM** ----- **PITCH WITH A CHAMPION - PITCH 10 SHOES WITH AN IOWA CHAMPION**

**12PM** ----- **OPEN PRACTICE & SIGNUP FOR TOURNAMENT**

**1:30PM** ----- **SIGNUP CLOSE & WARMUP BEGINS**

**2PM TO 5PM** ----- **HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT**

**THURS/FRI/SAT - BLIND DRAW DOUBLES**  
**SUN - SINGLES**

**MONDAY**

**9AM TO 3PM** ----- **DEMONSTRATIONS & OPEN PITCHING**

**ENTRY FEE & PRIZES**

THURSDAY & FRIDAY DOUBLES: NO ENTRY FEE  
MEDALS AWARDED FOR 1ST, 2ND, & 3RD PLACE

SATURDAY DOUBLES AND SUNDAY SINGLES: \$10 PER PERSON, PER EVENT  
100% PAYBACK  
PLAQUES AWARDED FOR 1ST, 2ND, & 3RD PLACE

**SPECIAL SPEAKERS**

SATURDAY - BERT LOGSDON, WHO HAS BEEN RANKED AS HIGH AS 10TH IN THE WORLD.  
SUNDAY - VERN KOLLASCH: FORMER STATE CHAMPION AND CURRENT REGIONAL DIRECTOR.  
MARTY SPRAGUE - CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE IOWA HAWKEYE HORSESHOE PITCHING ASSOCIATION (IHHPA)  
STEVE HATCH - COMPETITIVE PITCHER AND CARETAKER OF THE IOWA HALL OF FAME TRAILER  
STEVEN MILLER - FORMER IOWA STATE CLASS CHAMPION, FORMER WORLD CLASS CHAMPION, AND FIVE-TIME IOWA SENIOR GAMES GOLD MEDALIST

## Trolley 1779 is back on the rails

It's been awhile since 1779 has traveled "The Loop Line." Originating from Rio de Janeiro, the open-air trolley dates back to 1911. One of two streetcars of Naragansett design featuring a full-length upper side step making boarding much easier. Arriving in Mount Pleasant in 1970, 1779 has been in northeast Iowa at the Gomaco Trolley Company undergoing a major restoration.

Volunteers from the Midwest Central Railroad recently helped unload new trucks for the streetcar.



Midwest Electric Railway volunteers, along with Gomaco employees, have been running along the 2.5-mile circle testing the restored car.

Gomaco has also loaned a cutaway of a trolley perfect for photo opportunities during the Reunion.



# Button Collectors' Update 2025

*Carolyn Sidebottom  
Plymouth, Minnesota*

## 2025 Button Collector's Forum

Button collectors will meet for the 23rd Annual Button Collectors' forum in Colfax School at 9:30 on Sunday morning August 31, 2025. Colfax School is located just south of Campground Hospitality and the Theater Museum. Mark your Old Threshers daily schedule.

## 2025 Souvenir Button Design

Ron (Pub) Melsha and his daughter Sarah Melsha are the owners of the 1922 30 hp Russell engine featured on the 2025 Souvenir Button. Their engine was manufactured by Russell & Company in Massillon, Ohio. Russell & Company reportedly started building steam traction engines in 1878 and produce over 18,000 farm, traction and stationary engines.

Pub purchased this engine in 2020 from August Olson at an auction in Robinson, North Dakota. Unfortunately, many of the people who knew the history of the engine have passed so the Melsha's are still researching its pedigree. However, Sarah believes that this is one of only seven model 30-90 Russell engines left in existence.

As luck would have it, four days after getting the Russell home the August 10, 2020 derecho struck Cedar Rapids with straight-line winds estimated to be as high as 140 mph. The derecho collapsed the building where the engine was stored. Pub and Sarah spent the next year re-restoring the engine for its debut at the 2021 OT Reunion. They are still working on restoring the original paint work. Sarah thinks the paint on the lower part of the engine is original and the upper part needs to be repainted to match. They are also trying to figure out why the underside of the boiler was never painted.

The Melsha's Russell was built with a universal boiler so it is capable of burning a variety of fuels (e.g., wood, straw, etc.).

That makes it an even rarer model. Perhaps only three or four of the existing 30-90 engines were built with a universal boiler.

## 2025 Button Design Artist

Again this year, Steven Paul Mendenhall is the artistic designer of the 2025 Old Thresher's button. Steve has been involved in many Old Threshers areas and programs since 1985. This is Steve's fifth year as the button's major designer, designing both the engine portrait and the button layout.

Steve's initials appear under the boiler on the 2025 button, but you might need a magnifying glass, or maybe the giant Souvenir button to find it!

## 2025 Button Construction

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-colored metal



backing disk. The attached silver-colored pin has the loop style catch.

## Button Varieties

As of late May 2025, no new varieties of past years buttons have been reported.

Our collector's group's sharp-eyed variety collectors keep me up to date on new varieties for the current and past years. So far, no varieties of the 2025 button have been discovered, but major or minor varieties ~~Continued on page 5~~ the reunion date, or during the reunion.



**Sara Melsha and her dad, Ron (Pub) pose with their 1922 30hp Russell, this year's Featured Steam Engine.**



# Button update, continued from page 4

## 2025 Engine of the Year Special Souvenir Button

Due to the continuing popularity of the giant four-inch buttons, Old Threshers has issued a limited quantity of the 2025 Souvenir button in the large format. This sixteenth “giant button” makes an interesting supplemental button for the core collection. It also allows one to view the artwork in greater detail. These giant buttons have limited availability from the Old Threshers Gift Shop and souvenir stands while supplies last.

## Official Supplements

The 10-hour Volunteer button for 2025 is a significant departure from past year's Volunteer buttons. Traditionally the volunteer button had a name window. According to Terry McWilliams, buttons with a name window have



limited availability and are significantly more expensive than in past years. Like the main Souvenir button, the Volunteer button is a 56 mm diameter button with a plastic coated paper formed over a metal shell and held together by a silver-colored metal backing disk. The Volunteer button coordinates with the colors of the main Souvenir button (red, yellow, white, and black).

Instead of printing the volunteer's name on a paper inserted in the name window, the name will be printed on a clear adhesive label that will be affixed over the white rectangle on the face of the button.

The 10-hour Volunteer button is given by Old Threshers to those individuals who have completed (or will

complete) their 10-hour volunteer commitment to Old Threshers prior to the opening of the reunion. The 2026 “volunteer year” begins at the end of the 2025 Reunion. Old Threshers is always looking for volunteers to help prepare for and put away after the Reunion.

The 2025 Exhibitor/Staff button is an oval name-window button. An attached, coordinating ribbon will identify the main Old Threshers activity area of the wearer.

Both the 10-hour Volunteer Button and the E/S Button and Ribbon are

earned for volunteer work at Old Threshers, and tend to remain in the collections of the individuals who earned them. Old Threshers has never sold either of 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.

## Updates:

The following charts summarize updated facts about the 2025 Old Threshers Button collections. Be sure to add this important information to the inventory charts in your copy of *The Elusive '54, The Complete Guide to Old Threshers Button Collecting*, third edition.

### ENGINE PORTRAITS

YEAR	MODEL	OWNER
2025	1922 30 hp Russell	Ron (Pub) Melsha and Sarah Melsha, Belleview, Iowa

### MEMBERSHIP/SOUVENIR BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBSERVE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2025	56 mm	23C Red, Pantone C Yellow Black White	Silver	Silver L	None	\$1.00

### VOLUNTEER BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBSERVE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2025	56 mm	23C Red, Pantone C Yellow Black White	Silver	Silver L	None	Market, Not Sold by OT

### EXHIBITOR/STAFF BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBSERVE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2024	46 mm by 71 mm	2192C Blue Black White	Silver	Silver L	None	Market, Not Sold by OT
2025	46 mm by 71 mm	23C Red, Pantone C Yellow	Silver	Silver L	None	Market, Not Sold by OT

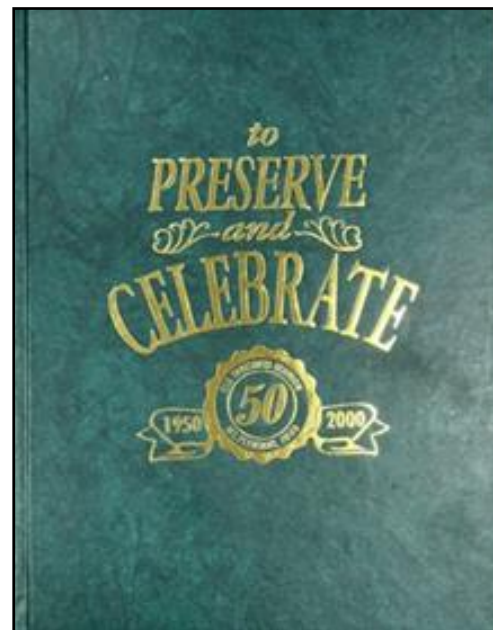
# A Book Review from the shelves of the Midwest Old Threshers' Library

*Editor's Note: This is one of many book reviews by Threshers volunteer Joan Alt Belknap. Joan has made a detailed list of all the books in the Old Threshers' Library in the conference room. "Many of them are amazing for different reasons. It seems a shame for them to just sit there with many people not even realizing they are there," says Joan. One can find Joan in the Gas Engine Area.*



**Old Thresher's at Thirty  
XXX : 30th Anniversary  
Picture History 1950-1979,  
Jennings, Dana Close.  
Midwest Old Threshers  
Assoc, c1979.**

**To Preserve and Celebrate :  
1950-2000, 50 years of  
Midwest Old Threshers,  
Midwest Old Threshers  
Assoc, c2000.**



Following a good suggestion by OT Board Member and OT Foundation Executive Director Melinda Husinga, the items for review in this issue look back on the 30th and 50th anniversaries. While these are not the only books about Old Threshers, they do mark two important milestones along the way. Both books are full of history and color photos of past reunions.

While some things seem comfortingly the same, others have faded away or given way to newer and better ways of doing things. At any rate, both folks who have been there for those years gone by, and folks newer to the show will enjoy taking a look back. (both books on shelf 3)

In addition to the printed books, there are a large number of videocassettes and dvds of past reunions, including Midwest Old Threshers Golden Anniversary Reunion 2000 (shelf 11) or The Best of the Midwest Old Settlers & Threshers Reunion. (shelf 17) Some are general shows or individual years and some are for specific areas like Horse Power at the 1994 Midwest Old Settlers and Threshers Reunion (shelf 17)

The Midwest Old Settlers and Thresher's Reunion library is really a treasure trove of information about the past in a wonderful variety of ways. I think you would enjoy a visit to the past during this big 75th anniversary year!

**\*\* The Old Threshers Library will be unavailable to the public during the Reunion, but stop by after the Reunion is cleaned up and the office is back to normal hours.\*\***

# Truck brought back to life after 40 years in a barn

Tim and Lisa Ockenfels responded to a listing on Craig's List for a 1931 Ford Model A truck. The antique was all the way on the East Coast and had been in a barn for more than 40 years.

"We bought it site unseen," said Tim. "It hadn't been started in over four decades." The only thing using it were mice. A look inside the door panels found years of mice carcasses and acorns stacked 3/4 of the way up the door. The small nuts also found their way into the engine compartment and transmission.

They had the truck brought back to Mount Pleasant with the intention of a full restoration with the help of friend, Paul Maher. Plans were derailed when Tim was diagnosed with Stage 3 colon cancer in 2014. The restoration then fell to Mike Paine of Paine's Auto Body. Tim spent the better part of a year researching and finding parts for the truck, a welcome distraction from his cancer treatment.

Once the metal and mechanical work was done, Lisa started restoring the woodwork and doing other things Tim couldn't.

Ford made 8,282 Model A trucks in 1931. At a cost of \$455. The red of their truck is one of 38 colors offered that year.



## 2025 Featured Antique Truck

1931 Ford Model A

Owned by: Tim & Lisa Ockenfels of Mt Pleasant, IA

Tim and Lisa have been attending Old Threshers since 1984. They love participating in the Harvest Day Parade and look forward to this year's daily Cavalcade of Power.

Catch Tim and his Car Talk on Sunday at the Antique Car Building.

# Family's Silver King collection keeps growing



## 2025 Featured Antique Tractor

1936 Silver King R66

Owned by: Roger & Janice Richers of Mt Union, IA

The streets of Mt. Union, Iowa were lined with silver recently as the Richers family fired up their collection of Silver King tractors and paraded through the hamlet of 111.

Featuring odd balls and lesser-known tractors, this year's

featured Silver King owes its restoration to Janice Richers' father. Restored in the early 1980s, the tractor has been in the family ever since.

Roger Richers' father-in-law was responsible for getting Roger and the entire family interested in tractors and the restoration process as well as Old Threshers.

Roger and his son, Jacob, tag team tractor maintenance working hard to keep the fleet running.

The Richers' exhibit 12 tractors every year including six Silver Kings and five Fergusons. Their collection is made up of one of every Ferguson model made. Janice's father was a Ferguson salesman. They were able to find and purchase the very first and last tractor he sold at the dealership. It is the family's dream to own one of each of the Silver Kings manufactured. As they say, dreams do come true.

Roger said he and Janice were ecstatic to be approached by Tractorland director Alan Buckert last year with the news that their Silver King was to be featured. The entire family is honored to be chosen. Family members, including Janice's sister, will bring tractors from as far away as Wisconsin and Ohio. Roger said there will be 12-15 on display.



## Old Blue is a family heirloom



### 2025 Featured Car

1923 Hudson Essex

Owned by: Dennis & Suzy Veenstra of New Sharon, IA

The Veenstra family's 1923 Hudson Essex is truly a family car. "Old Blue" once belonged to Suzy's great aunt and has never left the family.

When her great aunt died at the age of 102, the car was passed down to a cousin in Wisconsin who then passed it down to another cousin in Keota, Iowa. At that point the car was put

in storage and not used. When the family needed more space, they contacted Dennis and Suzy to see if they were interested in the antique car. Indeed, they were.

Previously restored in the 1960s, the Veenstras only needed to focus on the mechanicals of the car. It was not running when they got it in 2023. They took all the systems apart and cleaned everything. It was reassembled and exhibited for the first time at the 2023 Old Threshers Reunion.

The Veenstra's children are very active with exhibiting the car and very excited to be the featured this year. Parading is their favorite part of the Reunion. Ironically, the featured car is always on the turntable in the Antique Car Barn and cannot be paraded.

That doesn't mean there is nothing to drive, however. The Veenstras also exhibit Suzy's father's orange Model T Racer. After her father died, members of the Southeast Iowa Antique Car Club gathered around Suzy and taught her how to drive it. She is forever grateful for their kindness.

You will find the Veenstra family spread out between both floors of the Carn Barn as the featured car is front and center on the first floor, while the Model T is in the basement. Be sure to go find both cars and talk to the family.

"It's neat to see the different generations come through," said Suzy. "Watching the older generations explaining the differences and similarities of antique and modern automobiles is wonderful!"

## A shared name sparks interest and grows a collection



### 2025 Featured Garden Tractor

1963 Montgomery Wards Squire 6

Owned by: Eddie Ward Family of Belton, MO

It's no coincidence that Eddie Ward collects Wards tractors, after all, they share a name.

A few years ago, Eddie spotted a 1963 Montgomery Wards Squire 6 at a show near his home in Belton, Missouri. After some negotiations, he was able to trade another garden

tractor for the rare find. It is believed to be only one of five remaining garden tractors of this make and model.

Being this year's featured in the garden tractors, Eddie is looking forward to bringing his collection to Mount Pleasant. He has all the Wards garden tractors manufactured from 1959-1969. "I am anxious to get them all lined up," said Eddie. "I've never seen it."

Along with the tractors, Eddie also has attachments to display as well as a Wards push behind mower that has never been assembled.

The Squire 6 isn't his only rare tractor. Eddie will also be exhibiting an AC U Orchard tractor. This one of one tractor features a Continental engine and was once a part of the family 40 years ago before being sold to Larry and Nancy Holmes. Eddie is glad to have it back in the family. This tractor remains on display in the Richard E. Oetken Heritage Museums when it's not out on the grounds for the Reunion.

You will also see Eddie's Wards Twin Row, a full-size row crop tractor built by Montgomery Ward between 1941-1942.

Eddie's garden tractors are kept at his mother's house not far from Mount Pleasant. He estimates that it will take 3-4 trips to get everything to the grounds.



# Percheron draft horses have rich European history

This year's featured horse breed is the Percheron.

Used extensively in Europe during World War I, this French breed of draft horse is known for its well-defined muscles, being strong, smart, and most importantly willing to work.

Commonly bred for draft work, Percherons could be found pulling stagecoaches and eventually being used for agriculture and hauling heavy goods.

OT horse exhibitor Brandon Harp can attest to the intelligence of the breed. He has been raising Percherons for several years first exhibiting at OT in 2008. "We started using our horses on the sawmill," said Brandon. "Then someone brought a buckrake, but no one knew how to use it." Challenge accepted.

Brandon and his sure-footed team of horses worked together to figure it out. The buckrake, also known as a bull rake or hay sweep, has been part of the horse demonstrations ever since.



**Brandon Harp and his team on the buckrake.**

Brandon and his wife, DeAnn, have a special connection to Old Threshers as they were engaged behind a team of horses during a Reunion and celebrated their 10-year anniversary on August 1.

You can find the Harps traveling the Midwest with Josh Winkler and his family as they compete in Farm Team Challenges. Showcasing the strength and agility of these massive animals and the expertise of their handlers, these fast-paced competitions are timed events that require skill and coordination all around.

The Winklers are from Corning, Iowa. Josh credits his grandfather, John Unternahrer, for getting him involved with Threshers in 1994. John supplied the demonstration area with ear corn for 40 years.

As soon as he was big enough to drive a team of horses, Josh was helping his grandfather. As they say, the apple



**2025 Featured Horse**  
**Percheron**

doesn't fall far from the tree. Josh and Jasmine's boys - Jamison, 7, and Jakob, 4, - can both drive a team. Averaging about 1,800 pounds each, these massive, beautiful horses are just one of many breeds visitors to the Old Threshers Reunion can see in the Horse Barn.

Brandon will have six full-grown Percherons there as well as 2 babies. The young ones learn best when they are working side-by-side with the older horses. Josh will be exhibiting a team of three-year-olds.

Percherons come in three colors—black, white and dappled gray. Learn more about the breed by joining a Barn Tour. Check the [OT Programs](#) for times.

**Don Carlson Memorial**

**Horse Pull**

**Wednesday Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>, 7pm**



Sponsored By:  
**BECK'S**

**Admission: \$10 - Per Person After 6pm or  
included with \$40 - Multi-Day Wristband**



# Featured Gas Engine

## Field Brundage Co. of Jackson, Michigan

By Barry Tuller

Midwest Old Threshers is celebrating its 75 years in 2025. In 1980, the show began to feature a specific gas engine manufacturer, and encourage exhibitors to dust off examples from their collections and bring them to show. 2025 will mark the 45th feature gas engine, which will be those built by the Field Brundage Co. of Jackson, MI, as well as the Sattley engines of Montgomery Ward built in the Field factories.

The Field Brundage Company had an interesting history, being created in 1905. It was previously known as Jackson Engine & Motor Co., which was itself created in 1904 through the combination of Trask-Field Gas Engine Co. of Jackson and the Albion Engine & Motor Co. of Albion. Both legs of the company traced their engine building starts back into the 1890s. Field Brundage built quality, commercial grade engines, that were quite heavy for their rated horsepower.

Competition in the 1910s forced Field Brundage to look for engine designs that could be made at lower cost. They introduced a pushrod engine in 1913 (to become known as the Type W), that would be part of their lineup for the next dozen years. The company sold out to Montgomery Ward in late 1916, who used the factory to make engines to sell in their big mail order catalogs. Montgomery Ward marketed the engines as the Sattley brand, and many thousands were sold. Engine

production ended by 1925, and the factory in Jackson was sold to Ampco Twist Drill & Tool Co.

Old Threshers gives additional recognition each year to a featured

gas engine exhibitor, along with his engine. Brian Bambrook of Eddyville, IA is featured for 2025, with his 1-1/2 HP Field Type W engine. Brian has been in the gas engine hobby for 40+ years, and has been an exhibitor at Old Threshers for many of those years. His wife's grandfather was an engine collector, which sparked his interest and got him started collecting too. He has really enjoyed



### 2025 Featured Antique Gas Engine

The Field-Brundage Co Field Type W 1 ½ HP

Owned by: Brian & Brent Bambrook of Eddyville, IA

the friendships and adventures thru the years the hobby has brought.

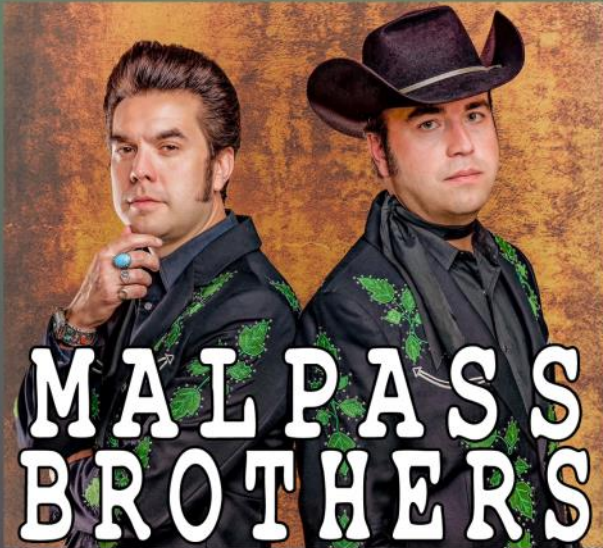
Brian found his Field engine on a trip to visit a long-time collector in North Dakota. The engine has much of its original paint and is in good mechanical condition. The engine started right up and ran good. Brian added the trucks to make it easier to bring to shows. The engine is stenciled "P&O", as it was sold thru the agency of Parlin & Orendorff. Based on its serial number, the engine was built early in 1915.

Old Threshers is looking forward to a great show with many examples of the featured Field Brundage engines on display. Be sure to be there and check it out!



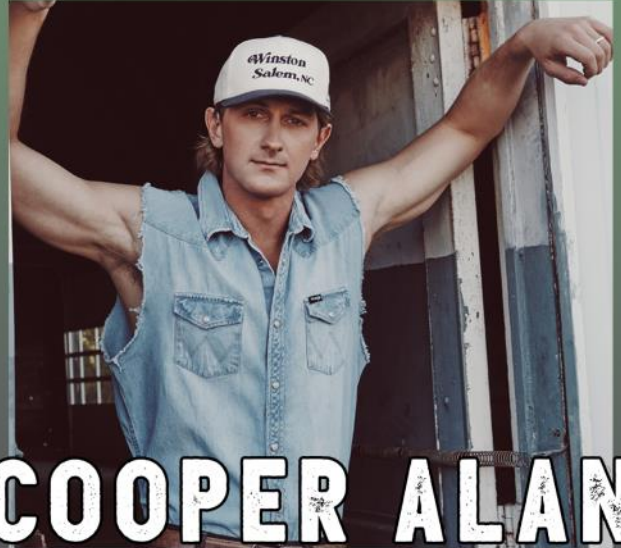


# *Celebrating 75 Years* **Midwest Old Threshers Reunion**



**MALPASS  
BROTHERS**

**THURS., AUG. 28**



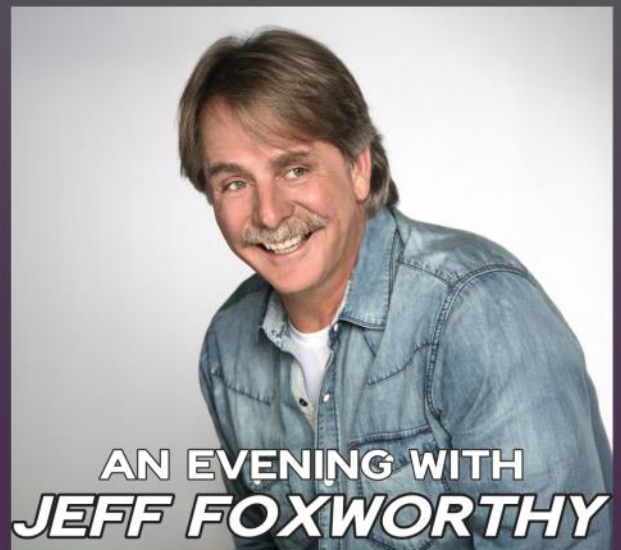
**COOPER ALAN**

**FRI., AUG. 29**



**priscilla block**

**SAT., AUG. 30**



**AN EVENING WITH  
JEFF FOXWORTHY**

**SUN., AUG. 31**

**GRANDSTAND OPENS AT 6:30 PM  
SHOW STARTS AT 8:00 PM  
INCLUDED WITH YOUR ADMISSION.**



# From the MCRR Shop

By Lauren and Kendall Osier



The Midwest Central Railroad Shop has been a flurry of activity getting everything ready for the start of our operating season.

In the middle of July, five people from the Durango & Silverton Shops (pictured below) came for over a week to finish up the boiler repairs that were started prior to the last Reunion. They final fitted the side sheet and the door sheet and welded them into place. New staybolts and rivets were installed. Since they



have left, the Shay has successfully passed a hydro test. A team has now started working on getting the firebrick in place so the locomotive can eventually be test fired. There are still some odds and ends to button up before she is ready to be steamed up. Crews are working hard to have her ready for the upcoming Reunion.

No. 6 is being prepared for her annual inspection. Part of her preparation is having the waste cellars gone through and filled with new material. This job is notoriously one the most dirty jobs at the railroad, and is now a right of passage of sorts for the younger volunteers. The goal is to have her hydro tested and steamed up a bit before show for testing purposes.



Coach 303 is coming along quickly now as we near the end. A team has now put all of the brake rigging in place, and the car has successfully passed air tests. Work continues on the exterior and interior trim. New windows are being made for the coach. The interior of the coach will be similar to the new interior the Mignon car debuted at last year's Reunion.

Speaking of cars, be sure to keep your eyes out during the show for a special freight section that might make an appearance with a flatcar celebrating the 75th year of Midwest Old Threshers.



The Model T speeder will be celebrating its 100th birthday this year! We purchased it from Argent, but we believe it came from SS&S originally. We are bringing it back its original color, silver!



The Red Caboose Giftshop will be featuring a new look as it is now the Whistle Stop Supply Co.! Be on the look out for some new Midwest Central Railroad merchandise.

As we near the Reunion, we are seeking volunteers who are wanting to help with the giftshop, ticket sales, and conducting. If you are interested, please visit our Facebook page for more information. The sign up sheets can be found there. <https://www.facebook.com/MCRR.ORG>



# Young Guns in Preservation: Kendall Osier

The 24-year-old holds multiple positions at the Midwest Central Railroad while serving as co-founder and president of the Midwest Narrow Gauge Preservation Society

By Lucas Iverson | August 6, 2025 | Reprinted with permission

*Editor's Note: The "Young Guns in Preservation" series is a recurring feature on the Trains.com website that profiles young individuals who are actively involved in rail preservation efforts. These articles highlight the work, dedication, and challenges faced by younger generations in keeping the history of railroading alive. The series also aims to showcase the diversity of skills and experiences within the preservation community. Kendall is the second one of the MCRR volunteers to have been featured. Even though the stories highlight their roles in railroad preservation, their dedication flows over into their volunteer efforts during the Old Threshers Reunion and sharing their passion with visitors. Read the other profiles in the [Spring 2025 Chaff](#).*

Like his father, the Midwest Central Railroad became a siren for Kendall Osier, who now serves multiple mechanical and operating positions at the 3-foot gauge railroad in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Alongside his wife, Lauren, the 24-year-old is also the co-founder and president of the Midwest Narrow Gauge Preservation Society, a fledgling non-profit whose mission is to preserve the underappreciated history of Midwest narrow gauge railroading through recently saved freight and passenger equipment.

## How did you get involved in rail preservation?

Kendall Osier: I've been around narrow gauge railroads my whole life. My father was involved with Midwest Central Railroad well before I was born. The first time I was at the railroad was for the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion. I was just a couple of weeks old. The first thing that I helped with at MCRR was disassembling 2-6-0 No. 6 for some boiler work, and that was when I was about eight. It all just snowballed from there.

Now regarding the Midwest Narrow Gauge Preservation Society, it's almost hard to explain the founding because a lot of different things came together at the same time. My wife found a couple of 1882-built Fort Madison & North-Western boxcars at an abandoned farm in southeast Iowa. It was quite the historical find, and the cars were in really good condition. We quickly worked on acquiring them, moving them off the farm, and stabilizing them. It kind of led toward the research on the other narrow-gauged lines in Iowa. Due to the historical

significance of that, we just kept finding more and more pieces of equipment.

## As a young preservationist, what have you found to be the most challenging aspects in the industry?

Kendall Osier: Starting a nonprofit from scratch, like the MNGPS, has certainly been challenging. The process requires figuring out various steps, from obtaining 501(c)(3) status to making a clear mission statement and specific goals for the organization.

Volunteer work for both the society and Midwest Central personally adds layers of complexity. I have a 40-hour-a-week job, 5 days a week, which is a juggling act. There are some weeks that I put 30-40 hours of preservation work on top of that. Other weeks, I can't fit as many hours as I'd like, but that's the reality of time management.

## What's been the most rewarding for you so far?

Kendall Osier: The most rewarding thing for me is the people. Some of my lifetime friends I met through MCRR and MNGPS. Obviously, I met my wife at the former, and that's very near and dear to me. On the flip side of that, it's learning more about the people before us who started the railroads, bought the equipment, and initially ran it.

## Where do you see rail preservation as it is today and what do you hope it'll become for the future?

Kendall Osier: I view it as prospering. I talked to quite a few contractors, and every one of them out there is just packed to the brim. There are several that are



booked in advance, so it's really hard to get a project scheduled anywhere. That goes to show that if there's a market there, there's an interest.

As far as the future is concerned, the interest will still be there, but I still see an issue with volunteer turnout. That's where I feel that the preservation aspect is integral to an organization's success. While I know that operations and special events are needed, as that's what brings in most of the money, it's not always what brings in most of the interest. Having that historical relevance is important to me, and I think there are a lot of organizations that do that well, but there are some that need to improve on that.

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# 2025 Sweet Sixteen Participants

**Beatrice Anderson – Winfield, IA**  
**Parents: Kelly Anderson**



Beatrice is very active in her school: art club (Council Member 2024-2025), Crochet Club, Student Leadership Council, Pep Club, National Honor Society, FFA (Vice President 2024-2025), Football and

Basketball Manager, Silver Cord, Yearbook, and Group/Individual Speech. Besides being active in school, Beatrice is involved with 4H (President of her club), Teen Council, Clover Kids Co-Leader and the 2024 Henry County Junior Fair Queen. Beatrice is a camp counselor for the Iowa School of the Blind. Beatrice's interests are in agriculture, animals, working with kids, volunteering, baking, sewing and raising goats.

Beatrice has been coming to Old Threshers since she was a young child. Her birthday always falls during the Reunion, so Old Threshers is always a part of her celebration. Beatrice started out volunteering at the Pork Tent when she was in the fourth grade. As soon as she was old enough, she started volunteering on the ground train.

Beatrice believes that being Miss Sweet 16 would be an honor because it would allow her to combine her two favorite things, volunteering and meeting new people. Not only would she be able to showcase the Reunion to new and old visitors, but she would also gain a wealth

of knowledge by getting to know some of the visitors. She would also like to show other girls that you never know what opportunities may come your way if you are not afraid to take chances and step out of your comfort zone.

**Courtney Andreasen – Mt. Pleasant**  
**Parents: Lara and Jeremy Andreasen**



Other than cheer, Courtney is on the high school dance team and dances at Niki K's Dance Company. She runs track in the spring for the Mt. Pleasant Community High School. Courtney enjoys staying

involved at her church, keeping up with school, as well as doing crafts and hands on projects. Spending time with family and friends along with being outside with her dogs.

During the Reunion, Courtney stays busy working at the Faith Lutheran church tent, serving beef and noodles and delicious pies.

Courtney would like to be the next Sweet Sixteen because she wants to be one of the big girls in the pretty dresses that the little girls are inspired by and look up to just like the older girls did for her when she was little.

**Hailey Blackford – Norwalk, IA**  
**Parents: Andrew and April Blackford**



Hailey is involved with tennis, trap shooting and FFA for the Indianola, Iowa School District. Hailey has been involved with Old Threshers by helping in the campground with the ground train.

She volunteered at Vera's Souvenir Stand and has been a part of Tractorland for a couple of years.

Hailey has wanted to be the next Sweet 16 ever since she was a little girl. She always looked up to the girls that were a part of the Sweet 16 Program. She would like to inspire all the little girls at this year's Reunion. It's also a chance for her to step out of her comfort zone and meet a lot of new people. Her sister, Mackenzie, participated in the program and said it was one of the best experiences she has had, and hopes it is for Hailey as well.

**Naomi English – Mt. Pleasant, IA**  
**Parents: Steven and JoKasta English**



Naomi likes music, singing and performing. She is a part of her school's show choir, chamber choir and soccer team. She enjoys floristry and

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## Young Guns: Osier continued from page 13

### What advice would you give for any young person looking to get involved in the industry?

Kendall Osier: This is kind of difficult for me to give because I was born into it and very lucky in that manner. That being

said, I've seen a lot of young people come into rail preservation with some reacting better to the massive first step than others.

I think the best advice that I could give is if you're interested, just step into it.

Don't wait for somebody to ask you for help, but don't just go and do something on your own. It's also important to find a good mentor. Latch on to them, ask them questions, and learn as much as you can.



# Sweet 16 continued from page 14

gardening, going on adventures and seeing car shows.

Naomi has not previously volunteered at Midwest Old Threshers, but she does enjoy returning each year and participating in the festivities.

Naomi's ultimate goal is not to win or be crowned but instead it is to grow herself as an individual and to contribute to a positive experience at Midwest Old Threshers.

## **Paige Heims – Anamosa, IA** **Parents: Dustin and Kayla Heims**



Paige is a part of her school's archery club; she has participated in soccer and recently joined the wrestling team. She has belonged to a 4-H club for many years and belongs to FFA where she is the

treasurer. Some of Paige's interests are welding, restoring Farmall tractors, driving teams of horses and riding.

Paige participated in the Tractorland kiddie pulls when she was little. She has participated in the Cavalcade of Power her entire life. In the past two years, she has volunteered with the ground trains. In 2024, she had the opportunity to drive a team of horses in the sawmill demonstrations.

Ever since Paige was little it was a childhood dream of hers to participate in the Miss Sweet 16 contest. She wants to share her experiences and knowledge of the Reunion with other people.

## **Alexis Hellweg – Mt. Pleasant, IA** **Parents:**

### **Molly Brimmer and Cody Hellweg**



Alexis enjoys outdoor activities, working with children (with hopes of being a teacher), swimming and gymnastics. During the Reunion she did not volunteer but helped support Old Threshers through

her time at the Thrashers House of Terror where she volunteered over 100 hours and at the Festival of Lights at Santa's House.

Alexis wants to be a part of the Sweet 16 program because she wants to become more knowledgeable about Old Threshers. She would like to be more efficient in communicating with others and just wants to be able to volunteer.

## **Annika Kerr – Mt. Pleasant, IA** **Parents: Mike and Karla Kerr**



Annika is involved with many activities through the Mt. Pleasant Community School District including cheerleading for football and basketball, competition cheer, performance dance

team, competition dance team (9th and 10th grade) and youth art exhibitor (7th-10th grade).

Annika is a senior competitor for Niki K's dance studio in Mt. Pleasant in the following categories: jazz, musical theatre, lyrical and solos. Annika was a Title Winner Quad Cities for Miss Iowa Nexstar 2024. She attends the Swedesburg Evangelical Lutheran church where she serves as an Acolyte. She was crowned Santa/Saint Lucia 2022 at the Swedish American Museum and Historical Society and Smorgasbord and helps with the pancake breakfast and other events for the museum. Annika plays Disney's

Princess Anna at Camp Reece for participants with disabilities and at the Revival Salon's Princess Days.

Annika is a member of the Explorer Post 1846 and has been volunteering at the Log Village since she was in the 1st grade. She is a graduate of the Log Village's one room schoolhouse (Oak Ridge). She has wonderful memories of making butter as a student and now teaches the children how to churn the butter. She enjoys helping with the Festival of Lights Holiday Stroll, hosting visitors at the Log Village. Annika has had lots of fun serving at Old Threshers church tents with her friend, Courtney, since she was in the 5th grade. Annika believes that when you give back, you always get more back because of the rewarding feelings and friendships made.

Old Threshers is Annika's favorite time of year! She and her family never want the time to end. She has wanted to be Miss Sweet 16 since she was a little girl. She looked up to the Sweet 16 contestants, who she thought were princesses. She loved talking with them and taking pictures with them. She would like to be a role model, just like those girls were for her. Being a part of Sweet 16, she would like to help children and adults experience that history is fun, and everyone is welcome and can find a special place on the grounds to belong and become a part of the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion!

## **Sydney Kracht – New London, IA** **Parents: Scott and Becky Kracht**



Sydney likes volunteering at many school-related events; concessions for all sports events and helping with the younger children at events throughout the year.

Sydney hasn't volunteered at the Reunion yet but has performed with the New London Marching Band at the Cavalcade of Power.

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# Sweet 16

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Sydney would like to be the next Sweet 16 because she would put the scholarship money towards her college tuition, but she also loves to help wherever she can and loves to meet new people and have new experiences.

## **Aliviah Lake – Mt. Pleasant, IA** **Parents: Joshua McDade**



Aliviah is involved with the FFA Chapter at Mt Pleasant High School. She enjoys art, reading, crafting and baking. Aliviah has been involved with Old Threshers by working at the Elk Tent.

Aliviah enjoys the environment Old Threshers creates, being able to be a part of the community is important to her. She feels like this would be a great experience to grow and learn.

## **Melaine Liechty – Hillsboro, IA** **Parents: Danielle Liechty** **Yuriy and Jade Matviyenka**



Melaine is involved in many things at the Mt. Pleasant High School; cheerleading, marching and concert band, and show choir. When not busy with school activities, she enjoys dance, spending time with her bunnies and

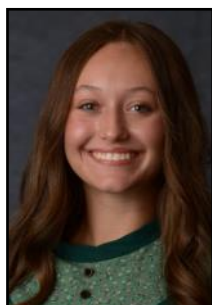
family and traveling to see family in other states. Recently she made the All-Star Cheer squad out of Burlington Iowa and is currently a Preppin Mama Sweetie.

Melaine has been involved at Old Threshers through volunteering at information booths and volunteering with the local FFA chapter. Recently she volunteered for the Thrashers House of Terror.

Melaine would like to be the next Sweet 16 to show girls that you can

accomplish anything you put your mind to and that kindness matters, no matter how small the gesture.

## **Jolynn Martin – New London, IA** **Parents: Sadie and Marcus Martin**



Jolynn is involved in softball, band, silver cord and 4-H. She enjoys horseback riding, volunteering and exercising. Jolynn enjoys helping with the 3 -year- old room at her church. She also likes animals and

taking care of others.

Jolynn has been attending the Old Threshers Reunion ever since she can remember. Last year she had the opportunity to work for Uncle Brian's Ice Cream. She would like to be more involved in the future.

Jolynn is participating in Sweet 16 so she can connect with others who she might not know, meet the other girls and staff, and meet people from different states. Jolynn would like to become more involved with Old Threshers and learn about the different areas of the Reunion.

## **Gabby McAllister – Fairfield, IA** **Parents: Dan and Krista McAllister**



Gabby has interests in swimming, kayaking, hiking, square dancing, hunting with her dad and taking care of the farm animals. She also is learning Korean and can solve Rubik's cubes. Gabby has attended Old Threshers since

she was a little kid. Last year she volunteered on the ground train and was in the Cavalcade of Power.

Gabby would like to be the next Sweet 16 because she loves Old Threshers and wants to be more involved and represent

the traditions. She thinks it would be a lot of fun and a great honor to be the next Sweet 16.

## **Cayleigh Osterhaus – Mt. Pleasant, IA** **Parents: Casey and Andy Osterhaus**



Cayleigh is involved in the band and color guard at Mt Pleasant High School. She enjoys sculpture, traveling, doing hair, thrifting, and baking. She also enjoys spending time with her family and outdoor activities such

as swimming, kayaking, and hiking.

Cayleigh has been involved with the Log Village for the past two years. She has been volunteering at the Thrashers House of Terror for three years. She has helped bake cakes for the Methodist Church tent and has performed with the Mt. Pleasant Marching Band at the start of the Cavalcade of Power.

Cayleigh has been attending Midwest Old Threshers since she could walk. She remembers always looking up to the Sweet 16 girls and always wanted to be one of them. Being Sweet 16 would open so many opportunities to meet new people and allow her to continue to help her community.

## **Annette Reynolds – Mt. Pleasant, IA** **Parents: Mike and Amanda Reynolds**



Annette is involved in dance, concert, marching, jazz and show bands, youth bowling and is a member of the high school bowling team, and soccer. She enjoys baking and cooking.

Annette has volunteered at Midwest Old Threshers in the First United Methodist Church food tent and volunteered at Thrashers House



# Sweet 16

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of Terror for the first time in the fall of 2024.

Growing up shas always wanted to be a part of the Sweet 16 program. She is a social butterfly and would love to meet new people. She would also love to make lifelong memories and build a skill that can help her in the future.

## **Patience Sparks – Lewistown, MO** **Parents: Traci and Johnny Sparks**



Patience enjoys art, making jewelry, gardening and kayaking. Her interests also include antique tractors and electric trolleys. Patience is a conductor on the Midwest Electric Railway.

Patience would like to be the next Sweet Sixteen because it would be a wonderful experience and for as long as she can remember she has always watched for the candidates and wanted to be one.

## **Linzy Striegel – Mt. Pleasant, IA** **Parents: Jennifer and Shawn Striegel**

Linzy is a very active sports enthusiast as she participates in four different sports for the Mt. Pleasant Panthers: cross country, basketball, track and softball. Along with sports she also is in choir, show choir, the vice president of the Triple-C 4-H club and volunteers at her church. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family, being outside and reading books.

At Midwest Old Threshers she has been involved in numerous activities

which include picking up trash on the grounds every morning of the Reunion with her basketball team, volunteering at St Al's food tent, the Elk Tent, and working with her 4-H club at the Pork Shoppe.

Being the next Sweet 16 would allow Linzy to deeply connect with her community's heritage, celebrate the traditions that have shaped our town and represent the value it holds. Volunteering and helping people bring a great sense of accomplishment, not only to herself but the people around her. As Sweet 16 she would have the opportunity to engage with people of all ages, share stories and create lasting memories. Linzy is excited to be a role model for younger attendees and encourages their involvement in preserving our history. She would dedicate herself to spreading awareness and enthusiasm, ensuring that Midwest Old Threshers continues to thrive for generations to come.

## **Peyton Syfert – Mt. Pleasant, IA** **Parents: Joe and Nicole Syfert**



Peyton is a member of the Panther Marching Band and color guard. She enjoys working on her skills and learning new ones. She is involved in 4H where she shows swine and sheep.

She really enjoys working with her animals each year. In her spare time, she likes to read, play games and spend time with family and friends.

Peyton has been involved at the First United Methodist Church tent each year along with the Old's Church food stand under the grandstand. She has also volunteered at the Pork Tent for her FFA chapter.

Peyton would like to be a part of the Sweet 16 Program because it has been a tradition for her and her family to go to Old Threshers each year. She has made

amazing memories with her family and friends and is excited to make more. Her mom was also a Sweet 16 candidate and has told her so many stories on how she enjoyed it. Peyton can't wait to experience it herself and says it would be an honor to be a part of the tradition.

## **Emerson Syfert – Mt. Pleasant, IA** **Parents: Joe and Nicole Syfert**



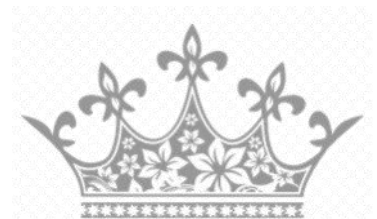
Emerson is involved with 4-H, concert and jazz band and is a member of the Mt. Pleasant High School color guard. Emerson raises show sheep for the Henry County Fair. She also shows pigs. In her spare

time, she enjoys riding her horse, reading and baking.

Emerson has volunteered at the Methodist Church Tent and the Old's Church Food Stand under the grandstand. She has also worked at the Pork Tent with her FFA Chapter.

Emerson has enjoyed going around the grounds with her family and friends for as long as she can remember, so she would enjoy becoming a part of the Old Threshers' history through the Sweet 16 program. Emerson is also proud to be a part of an attraction that is packed full of history and that brings many people together each year.

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# Sweet 16 continued from page 17

**Isabella Traman – Mt. Pleasant, IA**  
**Parents: Melia Liles**



Isabella is involved at the Mt. Pleasant High School in theatre, Silver Cord, marching band, symphonic band, treble choir, show choir, and cheerleading for football and wrestling.

Isabella has volunteered at the Thrashers House of Terror and at the ticket gates during the Reunion for the last three years. She has also marched in the Harvest Day parade with the Panther Marching Band.

Isabella would like to be the next Sweet 16 because she has always loved going to the Reunion and seeing all the girls participate in the program. She also has a passion for volunteering and giving back to the community that has raised her, and she feels being a part of Sweet 16 will be amazing opportunity for her to continue to give back.

**Lauryn Willham – Mt Pleasant, IA**  
**Parents: Jeff and Robyn Willham**



Lauryn is involved at the Mt. Pleasant Community High School with the In Motion Show Choir, color guard, chamber choir and soccer team. Lauryn attends the First Presbyterian Church and is active in youth group and the youth bell choir.

During the Reunion, Lauryn has worked on the ground train and at the ticket gates. She also has helped at the Presbyterian Church's annual spaghetti supper held prior to the start of the Reunion since she was a little girl.

Lauryn has attended the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion each year since she was born. She has always looked up to the Sweet 16 contestants and hoped to become a role model just like they have been to her. She would be honored to have the opportunity to participate in this special tradition.

**Izabelle Zihlman – Mt. Pleasant, IA**  
**Parents: John and Theresa Zihlman**



Izabelle loves to stay active and involved in and out of school. In school, she is a football and basketball cheerleader. She is in the Chamber Choir and Show Choir along with being on the

school dance team and is in competition dance. Izabelle also plays varsity golf and enjoys it very much. She loves fashion and is thankful for the opportunity to work at Sarah's Bridal Gallery in Mt. Pleasant.

Izabelle has been involved in Old Threshers for the past few years. She has worked on the ground train and at the admission gates. Throughout her life, she has had the opportunity to camp on the grounds and it is something she looks forward to every year.

Izabelle wants to be the next Sweet 16 because she would love to experience a leadership role representing her community and to show all the little people out there that nothing is out of reach if they put in the work it takes to achieve their goals.



MISS SWEET  
SIXTEEN CROWNING  
LABOR DAY 9:45 AM  
AT FAMILY TENT





# Obituaries

## Walter Mullin

Walter L. "Shorty" Mullin, 88, of Mt. Pleasant passed away on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at the Henry County Health Center in Mt. Pleasant.

Shorty was born on July 23, 1936, on the family farm rural Olds, the son of Forrest Lyle and Leanna Elizabeth (Long) Mullin. He graduated from Olds High School. Shorty was united in marriage to Beverly K. Alter on October 11, 1959 in Winfield. Following his marriage he joined the United States Army on November 13, 1959 and was honorably discharged on February 20, 1962. He

worked for the Henry County Supply CO-OP for 36 years, driving an LP truck.

He was a member of the Olds United Church, Eagles Club in Burlington, Mt. Pleasant Moose, serving on the invitation team, Big Creek Tractor Club' serving as a board member and the Henry County Credit Union Board.

Those thankful for sharing in his life include his wife of 65 years, Bev and his children, Rick (Rita) Mullin of Mt. Pleasant and Randy (Kathy) Mullin of Mt. Union, his grandchildren, Marcus, Makenna and Elizabeth, his great grandchildren, Kamryn, Oaklyn and

Thomas and his sister, Ann Conrad, of Olds.

Shorty was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Donald Mullin and one sister, Marjorie Alliman.

## Dee Johnson

Diana "Dee" Ruth Johnson, 78, of Danville, died Thursday, February 20, 2025, at Medical Center Downtown, Iowa City. She was born January 13, 1947, in Kansas City, Mo. to Harold Bamford and Virginia Ruth Snelson, and raised by her mother and adoptive father Charles McCabe.

She attended grade school in Kansas City and high school in Danville, where she graduated in 1967. She attended Lincoln Christian College in Lincoln, Illinois for 1 year. On July 26, 1968, she married Wayne Johnson in Middletown, Iowa, then later that same day in Henry County!

Dee worked at F&M Bank, Kirlin's, Hobby Lobby, the Christian Bookstore, the Kum & Go in Middletown, housekeeping at the post office in Danville and cleaned the West Burlington Christian Church and sold Avon. She attended West Burlington Christian Church and later became a member of the New London Christian Church, she was in several BSF Bible Study groups between New London, Mt. Pleasant and Iowa City.

She was a member of the Danville Lion's Club, The Moose in Burlington, and the Red Hat Society and volunteered at Old Threshers main ground and campground for over 50 years. She and Wayne enjoyed many camping trips over the years. She was a collector of Angels, Precious Moments, teapots, and anything Disney. She loved to crochet and was an avid reader of Christian novels and devotionals. She loved snow and everything Christmas. We learned very early Christmas presents were

**A 45-Minute Treat! ■■■■■■**  
**FREE WILL DONATION**

**FRI. AUG 29 & SAT. AUG 30**  
**11 AM & 2 PM IN THEATRE MUSEUM**

- A peek into the Theatre Museum's rich history
- Enjoy classic candy sales like days gone by!
- Laugh along with a 3-minute vaudeville-style skit

**Then... it's showtime**

**STARRING TOBY**  
*In The Closing Scene of The Hillbilly Hitchin'*

**"A LIL' OL' SHORTENED SHOW MADE SPECIAL FER OLD THRESHERS — STILL CHOCK-FULL O' BELLY LAUGHS!"**  
 - TOBIAS T. TOLLIVER



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# Obituaries

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never opened until the Christmas Story from Luke was read.

Dee was always encouraging and loved to hug everyone. She attended all of her children's events as a chaperone or spectator. She was a devoted wife, mom, gram Dee and known as "even better gram Dee" to her great grandkids. She saved and made copies of EVERYTHING she liked on Facebook so she could share with her friends.

Survivors include her husband; sons Michael Johnson of Austin, Texas; Joshua (Brandi) Johnson of Burlington; daughters Michelle (Troy) Warth of St. James, Missouri; Johanna Hand of Clarksville, Tennessee. 19 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and birth father.

## **Darrel Brothersen**

Darrel Anthony Brothersen, 65, passed away at home surrounded by his loving family in Cedar Bluff, Iowa on April 26, 2025.

Born on September 6, 1959, Darrel was the ninth of ten children to Harold and Genevieve (McGivern) Brothersen. He grew up on the family farm outside Guernsey, IA where he attended Brooklyn, Guernsey, Malcom (BGM) Community School in Brooklyn, graduating in 1978.

He spent several years working in construction and as a truck driver before pursuing further education earning a degree at Des Moines Area Community College. He went on to work at Rockwell Collins for 27 proud years where he spent the majority of his career as an environmental and safety specialist. During that time, he was instrumental in the recycling partnership between Goodwill and Rockwell Collins. After Rockwell, he enjoyed time working for local farmers and started up his own trucking company.

Darrel married Joanne Buffo settling down in West Branch, IA, and welcomed their two children AJ and Jessica. Later in life, he remarried Jean (Divoky) Brothersen and together they built a beautiful home near Cedar Bluff, with Darrel embracing Jean's sons—Josh, Joe, and Jon—as his own.

Darrel had a deep passion for working on vintage tractors and proudly showcased part of his collection at the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion every year. He was a devoted volunteer for Special Olympics Iowa and spent summers cleaning up Iowa's rivers as part of Project Aware. Darrel also loved cultivating his vast garden landscapes around the house with an ever-changing and artistic eye. He had an all-or-nothing mentality when it came to his many interests in life.

He is survived by his spouse Jean Brothersen, Tipton, IA; his children AJ Brothersen (Marissa), Las Vegas, NV, Jessica Van Roekel (Alex), Monroe, WI, Josh Divoky (Michelle), Solon, IA, Joe Divoky (Tommy) Phoenix, AZ, Jon Divoky, Cedar Bluff, IA; his brothers and sisters, Patty Cline, Grinnell, IA, Peggy (David) Franklin, Spring, TX, Greg (Colleen), Hockley, TX, Pepper (Dr. Karen Taylor), Guernsey, IA, David (Debbie) Davenport, IA, Janelle Brothersen, Grinnell, IA; brother-in-law, Bill Brant, Spencer, IA; grandchildren Sydney, Olivia, Ezra, Benjamin, Michael, and Hayden as well as many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Darrel is preceded in death by his parents Harold and Genevieve Brothersen, father and mother-in-law Gaylen and Orlane Huey, sister Alice Jeannine Brant, brother Robert Brothersen, brother Jack Brothersen, brother-in-law David Cline, great niece Loralai Nicole Gutierrez, and several childhood friends.

## **Gary Johnson**

Gary C. Johnson "Yogi" 81, of Winfield, passed away on Sunday, May 18, 2025, at his home in Winfield.

Gary Conard Johnson was born on July 27, 1943, in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa the son of Harlan C. and Alice (Johnson) Johnson. He was a 1961 graduate of Winfield High School. Gary served in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1964 – 1970. On March 30, 1969, Gary was united in marriage to Sharalyn L. Noland at the Winfield United Methodist Church. Gary was a farmer in the Winfield area his entire life. He was a member of the Winfield United Methodist Church, served on the Farmers Co-op board, Sunrise Terrance Nursing Home board, Westview Apartments board, Peoples State Bank board, Winfield Historical Society board, Winfield United Methodist Church Trustee, Chairman of the Parsonage Committee, Henry County Farm Bureau board member, lifetime member of American Belgian Association and 50-year member of the Good Faith Masonic Lodge # 235.

Gary was an avid Iowa Hawkeye, Chicago Cubs and Chicago Bears fan and enjoyed refinishing furniture, collecting John Deere 2-cylinder tractors, golfing and attending his kids and grandkids events. Most of all, Gary made it a point to make everyone around him smile. He was a stranger to none and friend to all.

Gary will be deeply missed by his wife, Sharalyn of Winfield; his children, Krista (Jason) Aird of West Liberty, Kerri (Matt) Anderson of Mt. Pleasant and Karmen Johnson of Winfield; six grandchildren, Lauren Aird, Rachel Aird, Madie Anderson, Anna Anderson, Grant Anderson and Colin Anderson and many nieces and nephews.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Robert Johnson and sister-in-law, Marie Johnson.

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# Obituaries

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## Donald Wasson

Donald Lee Wasson, passed away peacefully on June 26, 2025 at the Prestige Care Center in Fairfield, at the age of 71. Born on September 12, 1953, in Fairfield, Don was the son of Alva Donald and Mary Dell (Maddix) Wasson. Raised near Libertyville, he developed a deep appreciation for the countryside and the values of hard work. After graduating from Fairfield High School in 1972, Don began his career at Rockwell International, dedicating ten years to the company. His industrious nature and family loyalty then led him to join the family business, Wasson Trucking. There, he became a familiar face to local farmers as he hauled grain and occasionally took to the open road for longer trips. Don's time behind the wheel of his truck was cut short by an accident, yet his passion for the road and the vehicles he drove never left his memories.

Don's love for diet Pepsi and Old Peterbilt semis was well-known, as was his quest for the perfect steak, which he often pursued on dining outings. His hobbies included collecting toy tractors and various treasures he found at local auctions. Don's happiest moments often included traveling to Branson and enjoying the festivities at Old Threshers in Mount Pleasant. He was lifelong member of the Libertyville United Methodist Church.

He leaves behind a loving family, including his wife Gloria, who stood by his side in life's journey. His legacy continues through his daughter, Hilary Lanman (Matt) of Hedrick, and his two sons, Ike and Mike Wasson, both of Salem, his sisters, Deb Strigel of Ottumwa and Sondra Philips (Dennis) of Ollie, his grandson, Joseph Lanman, numerous nieces, nephews, and many friends.

## Shirley Husen

Shirley A. Husen, age 91, of Walcott, Iowa, formerly of Dixon, Iowa, passed away Thursday, July 10, 2025, at Better Living of Walcott.

Shirley was born on July 27, 1933, the daughter of Arthur and Florence (Bicknese) Burrichter. She graduated from Wheatland High School with the Class of 1951. Shirley married Roy Husen on February 15, 1953 in Wheatland. Roy passed away on June 30, 2022.

Shirley was a devoted homemaker whose warmth and creativity touched everyone who knew her. Shirley also worked as a talented seamstress, often sharing her skills with others. A gifted quilter and crocheter, Shirley created quilts stitched with love for each of her grandchildren. Her hands were rarely still, you would often find her piecing together a jigsaw puzzle or completing a crossword. She found joy in the little things: family gatherings and the occasional Bud Light shared with loved ones and friends.

Shirley was also a hardworking partner on the farm, working alongside her husband and children. Together, they were proud members of the Deer Valley Collectors, and in 2000, their dedication was honored when their tractor was featured at the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion. She cherished time with her grandchildren, whether playing games, laughing over meals, or simply enjoying each other's company. Shirley's legacy is one of love, hard work, laughter, and creativity.

Shirley will be dearly missed by her two children, Bruce Husen of Hazelwood, Missouri and Gale (James) Rosenbalm of Geneseo, Illinois; three grandchildren, Michele (Brian) Lewis, Paul (Ashley) Cirricione, and Grant Husen; five great grandchildren,

Brendan, Austyn, Henley, Rilynn, and Paxon; and one brother, Jerry Burrichter.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents; and her husband, Roy.

## Richard Wehr

Richard "Dick" J. Wehr, age 79, of Washington, Iowa, passed away on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, at the Washington County Hospital following a short illness.

Dick was born on July 23, 1946, in Sigourney, Iowa, the son of Ambrose and Dorothy (Snakenberg) Wehr. He graduated from Sigourney High School and later earned a degree in agriculture from Muscatine Community College. On November 11, 1973, he married Cymie A. Foss.

Dick spent much of his adult life in Washington, where he owned and operated Wehr Farm Supply for over 25 years. He also worked for Northrup King and later joined Leonard Tindal at his feed store. A devoted Catholic, Dick was an active member of St. James Catholic Church and a member of the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus. He took great pride in assisting with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Program at the church, helping others grow in their faith.

Dick enjoyed restoring John Deere Tractors as well as collecting toy tractors. He sold his tractor collection in 2008 and was proud that they were distributed and enjoyed by others across the mid-west. Attending the Iowa State Fair, Old Threshers, annual Wehr Thanksgiving dinner and Wehr reunion picnic were some of his favorites highlights each year. He enjoyed going to music events, art and craft fairs, as well as local parades around the mid-west.

Dick was a proud grandpa to 6 grandchildren. He was passionate about his family, friends, and community. Dick loved people and people loved him. He enjoyed visiting with friends and family

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and had an insatiable curiosity for learning about others. The family would like to extend gratitude to all of those who took time to help him work on projects as well as those who visited with him.

Dick never met a project or task that he couldn't do. His unwavering positive attitude and resilience was inspiring to all who knew him. When he wasn't working with friends on various projects within the church and community, he could be found sitting outside enjoying the sunshine. As a beloved husband, father, brother and son, he will always be remembered not only for his determination but for how fiercely loyal he was to his family, friends, and his faith.

He is survived by his wife, Cymie Wehr of Washington, Iowa; daughters, Karmell Osman of Atlanta, Georgia, and Melanie (Tommy) Hunt of Parker, Colorado;

and six grandchildren: Max Osman, Abe Osman, Emily Osman, Henry Osman, Jackson Hunt, and Emma Hunt. He is also survived by his sisters: Barbara Friese of Chicago, Illinois and Helen (Emory) Westcott of Ankeny, Iowa; and his brothers: Larry (Rhonda) Wehr, John Wehr,, and Leo (Sonya) Wehr, all of Sigourney, Iowa; along with many nieces and nephews, and sister-in-law, Kathy (Foss) and her husband, Kevin Clough.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Mary Ann (Elgan) Edwards; brother-in-law, Wally Friese; and sister-in-law, Diana Wehr.

## ROLLING IN WITH STEAM - A TRIBUTE IN INK -



JOIN US AT  
PRINTERS' HALL IN  
HERITAGE MUSEUM B  
TO EXPLORE OUR  
EXCITING NEW  
DISPLAY OF STEAM  
ROLLER PRINTS  
CREATED OVER THE  
YEARS!

SEE IT IN ACTION  
FRI, SAT & SUN  
10:00 AM  
EAST END OF  
HERITAGE MUSEUM B

MIDWEST AND GREAT NORTHERN  
PRINTER'S  
F•A•I•R  
SEPTEMBER 11-13  
TWO TWENTY 25

## Old Threshers Church Service



SUN.,  
AUG.  
31,  
2025

10:00 AM • FAMILY TENT

Join the  
OT Choir



PRACTICE FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
5 PM IN CENTER CHAPEL • NORTH VILLAGE



**THRASHERS**  
house of terror  
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

**October 2-4,  
9-11, 16-18,  
23-25, 30-31**  
**14 and Under Must Be  
Accompanied by an Adult**

**Admission:**  
**General \$15**  
**Fast Pass \$25**

Thursdays  
6:30 to 10 PM  
Fridays & Saturdays  
6 to Midnight

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**\$20**  
**Per Person!**  
**Ages 4 and  
under FREE!**

**MIDWEST**  
**HAUNTED RAILS**  
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

**Ghost Train of No Return &  
The Ghostly Trolley**

**October 10-11, 17-18, 24-25**  
**Fridays 6 to 10 PM**  
**Saturdays 6 to 10:30 PM**  
**Last Ticket Sold 30 Mins before Closing**



Be sure to get a seat in the east end of Museum B in time to play BINGO!  
The Old Threshers Foundation will host BINGO starting at 1 pm on Thursday and throughout the Reunion.  
Thurs-Sun: 1-5pm | Mon 9am-1pm

Check the official Old Threshers programs for details.  
All proceeds from BINGO are invested in the Foundation's endowment.

## 2025 Calendar of Events

August 27—Harvest Day Parade  
August 28-September 1—2025 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion  
September 11-13—Printers' Fair  
October 2-4, 9-11, 16-18, 23-25, 30-31—Thrashers House of Terror  
October 10-11, 17-18, 24-25—Haunted Rails  
November 8—Old Threshers Annual Meeting | Foundation Annual Meeting  
November 22-23—Walk-thru Nights Festival of Lights  
November 26-December 31—Festival of Lights  
December 6-7, 13-14, 20-21—North Pole Express



# Old Threshers Reunion

**Sept. 3 - 7, 2026 \* Mount Pleasant, Iowa**