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Museum Planning and Development Documents

Tractor Test and Power Museum, The Lester F.  
Larsen

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January 1994

# Minutes of the Friends of the Tractor Test and Power Museum January 5th 1994

Tractor Museum

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, [TractorMuseumArchives@unl.edu](mailto:TractorMuseumArchives@unl.edu)

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**Minutes  
of the meeting of the  
Friends of the University of Nebraska Tractor  
Test and Power Museum  
October 14, 1994**

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1:00 pm, Room 224, L.W. Chase Hall

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Bill Splinter, Chair. Present were Splinter, Walters, Leviticus, Vanderholm, Hoffman, and Maresh. Smith and Fenster were present by phone conference.

Fred Chase is recovering from his heart problem.

Vern Anderson, an assistant for Les Larsen for antique tractors at the state fair for many years, has included the museum in his will. A letter of acknowledgement is attached.

Nebraska Kiwanis has formed a subcommittee to assist the Museum efforts.

IANR is supportive of a lease for \$1 per year until the year 2000 for the original Tractor Test building. The hope is to give time for the museum to begin to function before a longer-term agreement is signed. Concerns are to get Facilities Management to cover the utility costs and maintain utility services for this building. The lease will require Board of Regents approval. As long as UNL has control, the building is insured under the University insurance.

A preliminary visit by EPA noted asbestos in the building. The two sheets of asbestos in the roof will be disposed of in the near future.

The Museum has hired three students. Current work is on restoring a Ford tractor made in Minneapolis (1908-1912) that is in our collection. It is missing one gear for complete restoration. Frank Walters is acquainted with how to build a new gear. One student is working on restoring the Model "T" pickup truck. The student's grandfather had a similar truck with the manual. A copy of the student's progress report is attached.

The Hitchcock Foundation will meet in January and decide if they will support restoring the museum.

After the building lease with UNL is signed, Splinter will seek "Historical Site" designation from the Nebraska Historical Society.

Walters suggested that we could add additional worldwide materials if we can secure the Ted Worrall collection of literature. He knows several contacts that have literature that could be added to the library. Leviticus suggested using the UNL library system index process when we obtain the library material.

It was also suggested that we collect movies of antique equipment for the museum. Glass slides of equipment have also been archived at Love Library.

*Brett Smith  
Wayne Choat*

Annual dues are \$10. We need to secure more funding beyond dues. Discussed title of donations based upon amount. Need to designate levels of giving. Hoffman suggested "Horsepower." Could use Lied Center designations. Suggestion for support levels were the following:

20 Horsepower	\$ 0 - \$ 200
50 Horsepower	\$ 201 - \$ 500
100 Horsepower	\$ 501 - \$1,000
500 Horsepower	\$1,000 - \$5,000
Supercharged	More than \$5,000

Bob Smith donated a remodeled McCormick "M" tractor to the Museum. A letter of acknowledgement was sent by Les Larsen.

The question was raised as to how we receive and designate donations. For significant contributions - tractors, library, equipment, service, etc., the term, "Benefactor," was suggested. Still searching for a more "tractor" oriented term.

Possible logo is a photograph or sketch of Waterloo Boy connected to dynamometer. Charlie Fenster is still concerned about the logo being indicative of the "power" aspect of the museum. Splinter suggested having several logos drawn by Sheila Smith for our discussion at a later meeting. Need a logo of about 1½ inches square for letterhead. Give your ideas to Sheila for her consideration. Another thought was team of horses with walking plow in background with tractor in foreground.

Charlie Fenster asked about space for other display items. The livestock pavilion will not be available for the museum for the long term. Perhaps the state antique committee could facilitate a museum of the other equipment on the state fair grounds. The commission is thinking about re-roofing the exposition building at the state fair. Splinter will meet with the State Commission on October 27 to coordinate activities.

Walters announced that there are at least two antique collections that we may be able to add to our collection.


1995 is the 75th anniversary of Nebraska Tractor Test. We need to meet the first week in December to plan our theme for the anniversary.

Two cylinder club uses 10' by 25' for displaying tractors in their displays but 300 ft<sup>2</sup> would be better.

Splinter suggested the main bay of the original tractor test building when restored might contain the Waterloo Boy belted to a dynamometer. Other tractors might be on the east side of the building. Library would probably go on the west side of the building, maybe in the fuel room.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Submitted Respectfully,



Glenn J. Hoffman



University of  
Nebraska  
Lincoln

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Dept. of Biological Systems Engineering  
L. W. Chase Hall, East Campus  
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September 8 1994

Vern F. and Grace T. Anderson  
5000 North 27th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68521

Dear Vern and Grace:

I received a letter from Mr. Donald P. Horn, Trust Administrator for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Foundation in St. Louis, MO, informing us that you had included the University of Nebraska Tractor Test Museum in your Vern F. and Grace T. Anderson Charitable Remainder Unitrust Agreement. In behalf of the Friends of the University of Nebraska Tractor Test and Machinery Museum I wish to express our thanks to you for this thoughtful action.

The Friends of the University of Nebraska Tractor Test and Machinery Museum have recently incorporated and are now developing a rental agreement with the University of Nebraska to rent the former Tractor Test building and be given the opportunity to renovate that building to serve as a museum. The building is already listed by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers as a historic building and a brass plaque was mounted on the building commemorating that recognition. We will now apply for a listing with the State Historical Society for registration as a National Historic Site.

It is gifts such as yours that will make this possible. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,

W. E. Splinter, President  
Friends of the University of Nebraska Tractor Test and Machinery  
Museum

c: Mr. Donald P. Horn



MODEL T PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

(As of October 20, 1994)

On August 30, 1994 I began working on the 1912 Model T Ford pickup which is located at the Tractor Test Museum, Wayne County. The student who had previously worked on the project, had already disassembled most of the vehicle. This was a big help because all that I have left to do is inspect for badly worn and broken parts, repair, clean, and assemble the vehicle.

**Model T Project**

**Progress Report**

**August 30, 1994 to October 20, 1994**

Since I began working on the vehicle, I have done a lot of work. The end of a wire brush. There was a fair amount of dirt and surface rust which had to be removed from every part of the vehicle. Fortunately, the powertrain is in good condition. The only parts which needed to be replaced were the transmission bands and the engine pistons. Two of the pistons were severely scored. Surprisingly, the cylinder wall surfaces were in excellent condition and all of the cylinders were within 0.001" out of round. I currently have both the front and rear axles attached to the frame. All of the bushings in the front axle have been replaced and reamed to the proper size. I also have the engine block and transmission assembled in the frame. I am anxiously awaiting the arrival of the new parts that have been ordered so that I may complete the assembly of the chassis. Painting supplies have recently been purchased and I will begin to paint in the near future. (see page 2 for list of the parts that have been ordered)

prepared by

**Brent M. Smith**

I hope to have the project looking like showroom new by the end of February 1995.



## MODEL T PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

(As of October 20, 1994)

On August 30, 1994 I began working on the 1925 Model T Ford pickup which is located at the Tractor Test Museum. Wayne Choat, the student who had previously worked on the project, had already disassembled most of the vehicle. This was a big help because all that I have left to do is inspect for badly worn and broken parts, repair, clean, and assemble the vehicle.

Since I began, it seems as if I have spent most of my time at the end of a wire brush. There was a fair amount of dirt and surface rust which had to be removed from every part of the vehicle. Internally, the powertrain is in good condition. The only parts which needed to be replaced were the transmission bands and the engine pistons. Two of the pistons were severely scored. Surprisingly, the cylinder wall surfaces were in excellent condition and all of the cylinders were within 0.002" out of round.

I currently have both the front and rear axles attached to the frame. All of the bushings in the front axle have been replaced and reamed to the proper size. I also have the engine block and transmission assembled in the frame. I am anxiously awaiting the arrival of the new parts that have been ordered so that I may complete the assembly of the chassis. Painting supplies have recently been purchased and I will begin to paint in the near future. (see page 2 for list of the parts that have been ordered)

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PARTS LIST

Description	Price
Front inside cone and roller bearing	14.60
Front outside cone and roller bearing	27.75
Front dust cap	4.50
Oval gas tank	99.95
Aluminum piston set, standard size	89.95
Piston ring set, Grant brand, standard size	30.95
Cotton transmission band lining set	14.95
Band rivets, brass, pkg of 25	1.05
Band changing tool	3.95
Hand brake lever spring	1.75
Carburetor gasket set	1.50
Wiring kit	42.95
Battery to ground strap	4.50
Rear axle grease, 600W, 1 qt.	3.75
Oil breather cap	14.50
826, chassis black paint, 4 cans @ \$3.00	12.00
DAR9000, Black Delstar paint, 1 gal.	38.23
DTL16, thinner, 1 gal.	9.60
DXR602, reducer, 2 qt.	5.50
DXR80, Delthane hardener, 1 pt.	23.75
Kwik Prep, metal conditioner, 1 qt.	9.39
Two strap masks, box of 20	14.60
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sub total	\$469.67
shipping (from Lang's Old Car Parts, Mass.)	12.00
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TOTAL	\$481.67

Total hours worked since 8-30-94

115 hr.



