4-22-2010

Newsletter 41 Issue 1 - Spring 2010 - Nuts and Bolts

Larsen Tractor Museum

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, TractorMuseumArchives@unl.edu

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Larsen Tractor Museum
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
P.O. Box 830833
Lincoln, NE 68583-0833

Museum Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Closed Sundays and Major Holidays

Phone: 402-472-8389
Email: TractorMuseumArchives@unl.edu
Web Site: http://tractormuseum.unl.edu

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Board of Directors
Chris Ford, President
Larry Ehlers, Secretary
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Nuts and Bolts Staff
Relay your ideas and comments to the newsletter development team:

Jeremy Steele, Editor
jsteele4@unl.edu
Luis Vasquez, Creative Director
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We are excited to have Eric Rasmussen as our parade announcer. He will provide a lot of history and a little humor. Eric promises “Case” and “Ford” to be the only four letter words that he will say. If you can’t make the 10:00 parade, another one will take place at 2:00. Museum tractors will be featured along with any others brought in and registered before the parades begin.

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In addition to the standard tractor models, Thermal Thunder, a unique custom built modified pulling tractor is scheduled to be on display. The tractor is powered by a 4200 horsepower helicopter turbine engine. Thermal Thunder was the Outlaw Truck and Tractor Pulling Association Modified Tractor Points Champion in 2009.

Lawrence and Ann Reimer have generously made a donation and the arrangements for a unique ice cream experience at this year’s open house. See Open House on page 7

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We greatly appreciate the leadership that has been provided through Bill and Chris. Through their service and dedication, they each demonstrate to others how they are invested in the museum and its future. We are looking forward to having them back to full strength.

Henry Ford’s repairman
from Lou Leviticus, Curator

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by Jeremy Steele

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Friends board members and museum staff were encouraged to submit nominations to Nebraska Heritage. We would like to thank everyone who submitted applications and helped make this possible.

Watch for more details on this story in our next newsletter.
Smithsonian calls museum for images
by Jeremy Steele

The Smithsonian called and requested images from the archives. They are developing an exhibit for their traveling exhibit program. The Smithsonian creates quality, one-of-a-kind exhibitions that explore our national story and purposefully serve as catalysts for local venues to tell their own stories and history.

The Smithsonian is considering images for five identical exhibits of The Way We Worked. This exhibition, also referred to as a show, will tour the U.S. from 2011 to 2016 as a part of program called Museum on Main Street. Museum on Main Street (MoMS) began in 1991 in partnership with local state humanities councils to send exhibitions to small, rural nonprofit museums and libraries that would not otherwise have the opportunity to work with a large institution such as the Smithsonian Institution. Since then, the Smithsonian has toured exhibitions to nearly 700 towns throughout America with populations ranging from 500 to 20,000 people.

While most of the photographs within their final exhibitions will originate from the National Archives, the Smithsonian has expanded the breadth of the show to include over 200 images taken from sources that include local historical societies and archives and other government offices.

The collective photographs will attempt to cover the great strength of American workers and the great variety of the American work experience. While the exhibit concentrates mostly on the transformations that have occurred over the twentieth century, the photographs span as far back as 1867 all the way up to 2009.

The exhibit explores transformations and similarities in where people work, how technology has changed how they work, how work creates communities, the immigrant experience, workers’ rights, the shaping of identity through work, and what work means to individuals personally.

The Larsen Tractor Museum is looking forward to more opportunities to work with the Smithsonian.

Smithsonian Affiliations Program

In the future, the Larsen Tractor Museum hopes to have a collaborative partnership with the Smithsonian through their Affiliates Program. Through this program, affiliated museums help bring the Smithsonian to local communities to create lasting experiences that broaden perspectives on science, history, world cultures and arts.

Smithsonian Affiliations create broader opportunities than those found in standard museum loan programs. In addition to artifact loans, Smithsonian Affiliations help member organizations identify appropriate resources within the Smithsonian to accompany exhibit loans: education and performing arts programs, expert speakers, teacher workshops, and technical assistance. These may also serve as standalone activities developed specifically for Affiliate members. Smithsonian Affiliations also offers career development workshops for museum professionals, internships for Affiliate-based students, and research opportunities for Affiliate-based visiting professionals.

Any 501(c)(3) nonprofit or publicly-operated museum, arts/culture/science center, or educational organization, interested in obtaining Smithsonian collections on a long-term basis can apply to become a Smithsonian Affiliate. The Smithsonian considers proposals from institutions whose missions are parallel to the Smithsonian’s and who demonstrate a strong commitment to serving their communities.

Cultural or educational organizations interested in participating in the program need to submit a proposal to the Smithsonian Affiliations office. The proposal should include documentation verifying the organization’s nonprofit status, a mission statement, organization chart, collections management policy and a facilities report that follows the American Association of Museums format.

Three seconds of fame
by Jeremy Steele

Want five minutes of fame? How about 3 seconds worth? Thanks to the some American Pickers, a museum image ended up on the History Channel. American Pickers is a show on the History Channel that follows the adventures of Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz, two professional pickers who travel the back roads of the nation in search of Americana gold. Part sleuths, part antiques experts, and part cultural historians, Mike and Frank have a knack for finding hidden treasures in the most unusual places. They scour the backwoods and dirt tracks of the US to unearth collectible relics with historical and pop culture value.

In one particular episode, the two discover a tractor umbrella and refer to our image illustrating how it was used back in the day.

We are looking forward to more opportunities to work with the History Channel. Every second counts when it comes to getting our name out there as a reputable resource for historical information.

There’s no place like the neighborhood
by Jeremy Steele

Four 20” x 30” framed photos from the Larsen Tractor Museum Collections are on display at a Lincoln, NE Applebee’s restaurant. A dozen images were requested of the museum to create more of a local neighborhood atmosphere within the restaurant located near 40th and Old Cheney.

The restaurant takes pride in having a friendly, welcoming, neighborhood environment for both staff and guests that makes everyone enjoy their experience.

Applebee’s is the largest casual dining chain in the world, with locations throughout the U.S. and many countries worldwide.

American Pickers Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz are on a mission to recycle America, even if it means diving into countless piles of grimy junk or getting chased off a gun-wielding homeowner’s land.
Enhancing tractor testing exhibits
by Jeremy Steele

Luis Vasquez and a team of volunteers are excited for everyone to see the museum’s progress concerning exhibits on May 1. The team has been working with museum staff to create new platforms and signage for a number of items found on display.

Both Bill Splinter and Lou Leviticus have a wealth of knowledge about the engineering instruments within the collections that have spanned the decades. The team is drawing from their expertise and experiences and hoping to engage with current and past engineers from the test lab as well.

Luis Vasquez draws up construction plans for Phil Dinges and Richard Sposato. These two are doing a tremendous job of utilizing the resources we have to bring Luis plans into fruition.

Initial signage, or labels, serve the objective of providing technical information about the instrumentation used to test tractors. These will be enhanced with engaging signs providing interpretation for a variety of museum audiences.

Chris Ford and Paul North will be presenting plans and designs for museum exhibits as well. Paul has been working specifically on the southeast room that holds the Model T and the International Autowagon. Generated plans will be presented to enhance visitor flow throughout the museum.

Progress on Co-Op E3
by Jeremy Steele

Doug, George, Mark and UNL students are continuing to progress on the Co-Op E3. Through the generosity of many Friends of the Larsen Tractor Museum and members of the International Cockshutt Club, the tractor which now runs, is sporting new tires, paint and a number of other parts.

For several years, the Co-Op E3 sat out side the museum.

The tractor was sandblasted and received a new set of tires from the International Cockshutt Club.

The tractor is running and coming back together.

UNL students are learning and having fun along the way.

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The Larsen Tractor Museum is a part of the experience at the Applebee’s on 3730 Village Drive in Lincoln, Nebraska. A special thanks goes out to Luis Vasquez who helped prepare our digital images from the archives.
Splinter and Ford recovering
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Nuts and Bolts A publication of the
Larsen Tractor Museum

Thousands gathered around the Nebraska Tractor Test Track for Tractor Power and Safety Days in the 50’s.

Governor Tiemann dropped in during the 70’s.

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