8-1-2010

Newsletter 42 Issue 2 - Summer 2010 - Nuts and Bolts

Tractor Museum

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, TractorMuseumArchives@unl.edu

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Nuts and Bolts
A publication of the
Larsen Tractor Museum

May 1st open house
by Jeremy Steele

The weather was perfect for ice cream. An estimated 600 people attended the museum’s annual open house event. The large crowd pushed the John Deere one-cylinder ice cream maker to the limit. Maybe next year two-cylinders will be needed.

Thirty tractors paraded around the tractor test track for everyone to enjoy. After the parade, kids on pedal tractors navigated through the crowd as they lined up to enjoy food from Hy-Vee. As far as I know, the only complaint was from Allis Chalmers (museum cat) after Thermal Thunder, (modified pulling tractor) woke her up from a cat nap.

Nearly 70 people attended the 1:00 presentation. Trent Wiles, from John Deere provided an excellent program. He also presented a plaque to the Nebraska Tractor Test Laboratory for 90 years of tractor testing.

The event was a tremendous success. A special thanks and job well done goes out to the activities committee of the Friends.
My father, Leo Corcoran, a graduate of a University of Nebraska agricultural short course about eighty years ago, was an owner of a Co-Op E4 tractor. My recollection, which may not be exactly correct, is that the tractor was a 1951 model that he purchased in 1953. He used the tractor for nearly three decades, and although he had mostly retired, the tractor was still his pride and joy at the time of his passing in 1981.

My father farmed south of St. Edward, Nebraska, and purchased the tractor in Fullerton. It was a wide front end tractor. One important reason he chose this tractor was for the live power take off, a unique feature of the time. My dad custom baled hay with an Allis Chalmers round baler, also a relative novelty of the time. Prior to his purchase of the E4 his newest tractor was a 1947 John Deere B. As you may or may not know, when baling with an Allis Chalmers baler the operator had to stop for every bale to let the twine wrap the bale and then have the bale kicker out the bale. Without a live PTO, and with the ‘47 B, this meant stopping the tractor and pulling it out of gear, re-engage the clutch to let the twine wrap and kick out the bale, release the clutch and put the tractor back in gear, and then proceed; all a rather inefficient operation that was a source of clutch wear and tear.

The E4 with the live power meant just stopping the tractor, waiting for the twine to wrap and the bale to kick out, and then moving on; a much more efficient operation although still requiring one clutch engagement. I remember using the tractor many times well into my college years at the Ag Campus Ag Engineering department. I am not a large nor tall person, and I could not stay in the tractor seat and both use the clutch pedals and apply the brakes at the same time. In fact, it was near my limit to use both together and I clearly remember pulling back on the steering wheel with most of my strength to clutch and brake together. The tractor brakes were weaker in reverse than forward, and it was beyond my strength to hold the tractor on an uphill slope while holding the clutch at the same time. Therefore, if I was pulling a load uphill and did not choose a low enough gear at the bottom, I was going to be in trouble; and this happened more than once.

The first time or two, when I realized I could not hold the tractor with the brakes while also holding the clutch pedal, I learned to pop the clutch and set the engine stall before rolling too far backwards. Then it became a normal procedure to let the engine stall, set the brakes, then push in the clutch and shift to a low gear, then in a single not so fluid motion kick the brakes off and let the clutch out before rolling backward. If you ever stalled a tractor going up a hill with a four wheel wagon behind you probably know that rolling down the hill while steering a four wheel wagon backward without hi-jacking the wagon is beyond normal human skills. Thus my need to stall the engine, set the brakes, shift to a lower gear, and together kick off the brakes and pop the clutch.

Thank you for the opportunity to share some of my memories about my father and about his Co-Op E4 tractor. We sold the tractor at auction after he passed on and I’ve not since tried to follow the history of the tractor. I’m sure it continues to satisfy a worthy owner in the St. Edward vicinity.
The tractor you see in the photo is a EIMCO Diesel it was taken in 1955 or 1957. It was being operated by Bob Becker, a student from Albion, NE. You would never know from the picture, but the tractor was stuck. Somehow it got caught between gears during the tractor parade. I could have taken that picture because that is where I was standing, but I didn't. I was either a student or new instructor. My instructorship started in 1957.

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Jerry Kohl has his HG track fitted with rubber cross bars so that it can be driven on paved roads in tractor parades. But in 1947, 40 years earlier than the Challenger, the Oliver Cletrac HG was fitted with a rubber track. The tractor was called the "rubberband" tractor. Unfortunately it was found that the tension in the rubber track did act like a rubber band and could not be properly held and it allowed the belt to stretch. The program was halted and the HG continued to be mounted on steel tracks.

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Larsen Tractor Museum - P.O. Box 830833 - Lincoln, NE 68583-0833
Memberships are there when you need them most. They celebrate with you when things go good. They are understanding and supportive when times are tough. This past year, the membership/fundraising committee worked to better position the Friends of the Museum.

The committee recognized a number of organizations and businesses that may be willing to support the mission of the museum. The committee, chaired by Don Edwards, held several meetings to examine Friends membership categories and benefits, dues and donor levels.

The committee discussed and reviewed membership categories of other museums and organizations. They recognized ways in which the Friends membership categories could be improved. The committee developed a proposal for 2011 that was approved at the July 15, 2010 Friends board meeting. The proposal recognized five membership categories and established annual dues for each. The most notable changes in the proposal included raising Individual Memberships from $15 to $25 and lowering the dues for Family Memberships from $50 to $35.

The proposal made memberships more affordable for families with children.

The proposal also provided memberships to museum volunteers. Memberships will be awarded to volunteers who provide 25 hours of service and students who provide 10 hours of volunteer service. The committee wanted to recognize and reward current volunteers and their service and also provide encouragement for others to volunteer as well.

The Affiliate Organization Membership category was recognized in the proposal as well. This type of membership becomes available to all organizations and businesses that wish to support the museum. The committee discussed and reviewed membership categories and benefits, dues and donor levels.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Annual Dues</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Membership</td>
<td>$10/10 hours of volunteer service</td>
<td>*Available to any person enrolled as a student in a public or private institution of learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Membership</td>
<td>$25/25 hours of volunteer service</td>
<td>*Available to any person electing to pay the prescribed dues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Membership</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>*Available to any family unit of up to 2 adults and their dependents residing at one address.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorary Life Membership</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>*Elected by the Board of Directors, to be bestowed upon persons who are distinguished for their contributions or who are otherwise deemed worthy of the honor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affiliate Organization Membership</td>
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Membership categories, dues

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**Affiliate Organization Membership**
- $250
- *Available to all organizations and businesses that wish to support the museum.*

**Student Membership**
- $10/10 hours of volunteer service
- *Available to any person enrolled as a student in a public or private institution of learning.*

**Individual Membership**
- $25/25 hours of volunteer service
- *Available to any person electing to pay the prescribed dues.*

**Family Membership**
- $35
- *Available to any family unit of up to 2 adults and their dependents residing at one address.*

**Honorary Life Membership**
- None
- *Elected by the Board of Directors, to be bestowed upon persons who are distinguished for their contributions or who are otherwise deemed worthy of the honor.*

**Affiliate Organization Membership**
- $250
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**Benefits set for 2011 memberships**

**Student Membership**
- *Standard Benefits Package for Friends*
  - Eligibility for after hours tours
  - Eligibility to serve on board of directors
  - Research and educational opportunities

**Individual Membership**
- *Standard Benefits Package for Friends*
  - Eligibility for after hours tours
  - Eligibility to serve on board of directors
  - Research and educational opportunities

**Family Membership**
- *Standard Benefits Package for Friends*
  - Eligibility for after hours tours
  - Eligibility to serve on board of directors
  - Research and educational opportunities

**Honorary Life**
- *Standard Benefits Package for Friends*
  - Eligibility for after hours tours
  - Eligibility to serve on board of directors
  - Research and educational opportunities
  - Framed certificate of appreciation

**Affiliate Membership**
- Certificate for display at remote location
  - Holder for brochure distribution at remote location
  - Free subscription to one newsletter to the organization
  - Recognition plaque displayed in museum
  - Free calendar of activities for display at remote location

*Standard Benefits Package for Friends Membership*
- Membership card to present for access to museum resources and discounts**
- Free subscription to newsletter and a free calendar of activities
- (**Resources may include museum collections, web sites, technology, and equipment. Standard fees may apply. Discounts may be available on for sale items and fees for the utilization of museum resources.)*

Dedicated volunteers and students to receive free memberships and benefits. Family membership dues reduced from $50 to $35.
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The EIMCO was not an ag tractor, it was used in strip mines in Nevada and Utah. Notice how the operator sat far forward to see. We had a bunch of these “dogs” tested during that time, notably the Wagner Diesel and the Shepherd Diesel. I remember one small manufacturer from North Carolina couldn’t get the power they wanted. They boosted the pump, flames evolved from the engine. It was destroyed in the test. We definitely needed the Nebraska Tractor Test. I was proud to be part of it.

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About last issue’s cover
from Rollin D. Schneider

The announcement was made, but this issue we have the plaque to prove it. Heritage Nebraska recently recognized the museum as a Hidden Treasure. Heritage Nebraska is a statewide non-profit organization celebrating history through advocacy, education, outreach, preservation and stewardship. They help the public understand the importance of their built environment and heritage.

The museum was presented with a plaque at Heritage Nebraska’s annual meeting in Fremont, NE.

It's official
by Jeremy Steele

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Paul Corcoran recently made a donation for the restoration of the 1948 Co-Op E3 tractor. He wanted to share with you his story behind his donation, or more precisely the story for his late father behind the donation.

Popping the clutch
by Paul Corcoran
1968 Nebraska Ag Engineering grad

My father, Leo Corcoran, a graduate of a University of Nebraska agricultural short course about eighty years ago, was an owner of a Co-Op E4 tractor. My recollection, which may not be exactly correct, is the tractor was a 1951 model that he purchased in 1953. He used the tractor for nearly three decades, and although he had mostly retired, the tractor was still his pride and joy at the time of his passing in 1981.

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Larsen Tractor Museum
Mission Statement
To be the premier steward of advancements in agricultural technology through the development of collections, exhibits, and programs for public benefit.

Board of Directors
Chris Ford, President
Larry Ehlers, Secretary
Jerry Kohl, Past President
Dana W. R. Boden
Jim Christ
Dale Dinges
Don Edwards
Judith Hackman
Larry Hermann
Roz Hussin
Doug Koozer

Museum Staff
Bill Splinter, Director
Lou Leviticus, Curator
Jeremy Steele, Associate
Mark Nickolaus, Docent

Nuts and Bolts Staff
Relay your ideas and comments to the newsletter development team:

Jeremy Steele, Editor
jsteele4@unl.edu
Luis Vasquez, Creative Director
luisgster@gmail.com

Call 402-472-8389

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by Jeremy Steele
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The event was a tremendous success. A special thanks and job well done goes out to the activities committee of the Friends.

Super Fair / August 5 - 14 / Lancaster Event Center / Lincoln, NE

SUPER FAIR AUGUST 5-14
The 2010 Lancaster County Super Fair is August 5 through August 14. All antique tractor owners are invited to show and parade tractors each day of the fair.

DISPLAY LOCATION *NEW INFORMATION*
The antique tractor display will be located just south of 85th and Havelock in the grass rather than on the street south of the carnival.

SETUP DATES
Tractors can begin arriving at the Lancaster County Event Center Monday August 2. The fair starts August 5.

FREE TICKETS
Tickets will be required to enter the fair. Tickets are free and can be picked up prior to the fair at the Lancaster County Event Center or during the fair at any U-Stop or Russ’s in Lincoln. They will also be available at the gate.

PARADES, TENT AND BBQ
Parades will be held each day at 6:00 p.m. A 10’ x 20’ tent will be provided for tractor exhibitors. In addition, a free BBQ will be held for exhibitors on Saturday August 14. We are looking forward to seeing you at the 2010 Lancaster County Super Fair. Please call (402)472-8389 with any questions.