University of Nebraska - Lincoln
DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Museum Planning and Development Documents | Tractor Test and Power Museum, The Lester F. Larsen

3-17-1995

Tractor Test Museum Committee Meeting March 17th, 1995

Tractor Museum
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, TractorMuseumArchives@unl.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/tractorplanning

Part of the Applied Mechanics Commons

Museum, Tractor, "Tractor Test Museum Committee Meeting March 17th, 1995" (1995). *Museum Planning and Development Documents.* Paper 25.
http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/tractorplanning/25

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Tractor Test and Power Museum, The Lester F. Larsen at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Museum Planning and Development Documents by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

Tractor Test Museum Committee Meeting
March 17, 1995

Present: Fenster, Larsen, Splinter, Hoffman, Vanderholm, Trauger

Committee meeting started at 9:30 a.m.

Committee discussed draft of material for a circular for the museum prepared by Frank Walters. Committee members will revise draft and return it to Hoffman. Draft of the circular is attached to these minutes.

Committee reviewed recent activities of Governor's coordinating commission. Commission is making good progress.

The 1915 Ford tractor is being restored. Mr. Gerst, the owner, visited on March 16, 1995 to see the restoration. He is holding up last payment because of his trip to California. Model T pickup restoration is nearly completed. Truck is running and restoration will be completed this spring.

With recent funds into the Foundation, committee is ready to repair the roof. Splinter will meet with McDermitt about lease approval from UNL and then repair roof. Les recommended we start on the west edge of the roof. Potential cost for roof repair might be $10/ft^2 to remove old roof material, add sheets of insulation, and ridged metal roofing. Will try to add more slope to both east and west. Will need to replace some wood beams, will replace with 4" x 10" beams.

Hoffman will call members of Camp Creek Threshers to get replacement for Jim Jonas. Call Lawrence Hermann first because he lives in Lincoln. (Hoffman called Mr. Hermann and he will attend next committee meeting and will receive these minutes.)

The treasurer wrote a check for annual fee for corporation of museum committee.

Foundation account is currently $22,900 but the museum owes about $10,000 to the department. We still expect $15,000 from a foundation in Omaha.

When the Livestock Pavilion is demolished, we need to find space elsewhere to store tractors. Have to consider storage at State Fairgrounds, Camp Creek Threshers, or elsewhere on UNL land.

Hoffman is to get Brent Smith's suit and pant size to Shirley Trauger. She will provide period clothes for the April Anniversary celebration.

Will ask Camp Creek Threshers new member to serve on renovation committee.

When Hoffman gets a response from Mowitz, contact Splinter and Larsen about Ageless Iron display in Aukeny, Iowa on July 1 to 4, 1995.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30.

Next meeting is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on April 21 in 225 Chase Hall.

THE NEBRASKA ANTIQUE POWER MACHINERY
MUSEUM

Recognizing the importance of power machinery to agriculture the 198 Nebraska legislature enacted provisions which established a museum for agricultural power machinery.

Diligent efforts of a group organized to carry out the legislature intentions has resulted in the following-

1. Leasing the original Nebraska Tractor Test building from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on a dollar per year basis. The University provides no repairs or maintenance. The laboratory's roof is in serious need of repair along with repairing the deteriorating areas of the laboratory's ceiling. This deterioration resulted from the leaks in the roof. The immediate need is to repair the roof. It is envisioned that if the roof were repaired, local service organizations would help in cleaning and restoring the inside of the building.

2. Mr. Lester Larsen, retired Chief Engineer of the Nebraska Tractor Test, has gathered 43 antique tractors on either a gift or loan basis. The different units display various steps of improvement leading to present day state of designs. Among this group, on a loan basis, is the "Ford Tractor"(not made by nor related to the present Ford Motor Company Organization). The poor performance of this tractor and others at that time, lead to establishing the Nebraska Tractor Test program. Sufficient additional parts have been found to possibly assemble a second unit. This unit would belong to the Museum.

   In addition to these tractors, Mr. Larsen has obtained on a loan basis two ca. 1918 motor powered cultivators. These units were the first step of replacing cultivators pulled by horses with cultivation units powered by a liquid feuled engine.

3. Since the original tractor test building does not have sufficient space to display all of the presently collected units, a few units embodying features that materially contributed to the advancement of agricultural power machinery will be selected for display in this building. Negotiations are being undertaken to find another area near by where the additional units can be displayed.

Along with the present units, the possibility exists where by a complete file of copies of all the Nebraska Tractor Test reports, plus copies of the test applications can be made available. It is hoped that this mini library of tractor information can be augmented by other agriculture machinery information. Agriculture power machinery has developed on an international trade basis, thus it is hoped to expand the library information to include material on a world wide basis.

4. Although this museum for agricultural power machinery has been established under the 198 Nebraska State Legislation, it is realized that there are other museums and collections in Nebraska and probably other States. The possibility of a computer listing of the makes,models, types, etc. and their locations is being investigated.

In compliance with University of Nebraska-Lincoln requirements, a group entitled "Friends of the Nebraska Agricultural Power Machinery Museum" has been formed. The mission of the group is to provide a place where people interested in gathering, developing, maintaining models of importance to the Agricultural Power Machinery field can display their models, and to participate in its financial support. Your participation in this endeavor would be greatly appreciated.