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Tractor Test and Power Museum, The Lester F. Larsen

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Friends of the Lester F. Larsen
Tractor Test and Power Museum
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To Board Members
Fr. Bob Kleis

April 3, 2000

Please be reminded of the quarterly meeting of the FOLFLTTP Museum on April 18, 1:30 P.M. in LW Chase Hall.

AGENDA

Opening comments	Bob Kleis
Minutes of January meeting	Glenn Hoffman
Treasurer's report	
Director's report	
State Museum report	
Raffle and Membership Committee	
Brochure Committee report	
Book sales plans	
Newsletter plans	
Tools display room	
Tractors developments	
Swap meet - May 20	
Budget allocation (s)	
Other items?	

Tell Bill S. and Bob K that I will not be there. Need to find someone to take minutes

Hope to see you at this meeting .

APR 2000
Received
Biological Systems Engineering

Board of Directors
Robert Kleis, President - Earl Ellington, Vice President - Glenn Hoffman, Secretary - Shirley Trauger, Treasurer, (Exeter) - Leonard Bashford
Harold Borman - Charles Borcherding - Charles Fenster (Gering) - Lawrence Hennan - Mark Lynott - William Overturf (Oak) - Ervin Rolofson
John Smith (Scottsbluff) - Norman Tooker (Ralston) - Dale Vanderholm - (Ex-officio - James Estes - Louis Leviticus - William Splinter)

Friends of the Lester F. Larson
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Lincoln, NE 68501 - 0475
(402) 472-3385; fax (402) 472-8427

April 3, 2000

To: Board Members
Re: Bob Klein

Please be reminded of the quarterly meeting of the FOLTTP Museum on **April 18, 1:30 P.M.** in LW Chase Hall.

AGENDA

Opening comments	Bob Klein
Minutes of January meeting	Susan Lindblom
Treasurer's report	
Directors report	
State Museum report	
Rallies and Membership Committee	
Brochure Committee report	
Book sales plans	
Newsletter plans	
Tools display room	
Tractors displayed	
Swap meet - May 20	
Budget allocation (s)	
Other items?	

Hope to see you at this meeting.

RECEIVED
Secretary of State
Lincoln

Board of Directors
Robert Klein, President - Carl Gillingham, Vice President - Jason Hellman, Secretary - Sandy Chase, Treasurer (Retired) - Leonard Dahlsten
Harold Sievers - Charles Hendricks - Charles Hunter (Retired) - Lawrence Hanson - Lloyd Smith - William Overdorf (Ret) - Jean Kaminski
John Lynch (Honorary) - Norman Taylor (Retired) - Jack Vandenberg - (Emeritus) - Jane Hunter - Lane Larson - William Spencer

Minutes of Board Meeting
April 18, 2000
Friends of the Lester F. Larsen
Tractor Test and Power Museum

Present: Leonard Bashford, Charles Borcherding, Harold Borman, Jim Estes, Lawrence Hernann, Bob Kleis, Lou Leviticus, Mark Nickolaus, Bill Overturf, Susan Sack, Bill Splinter, Norman Tooker, Shirley Trauger

Director's Report – Bill Splinter

- Improvements in small tools area.
- Graduate student doing great job of documenting inventory.
- Membership – 102 members of Friends Group.
- Financial – initial goal of $400,000 endowment; currently have $394,000.
- Recent donation COOP C3 tractor from Ned Meier.
- Lou Leviticus – Allis Chalmers industrial tractor.
- Donation of 1918, 1919, 1920 articles.

Lou Leviticus

- Web site for Museum.
- E-mail address – tractormuseum2@unl.edu.
- Discussed web site development with a handout.
- Lou – work with Fordson tractor in museum.
- Haying equipment in cabinet.

State Museum Report – Jim Estes

- Open house in Museum – 10 slots every day for a week on radio advertising – picked up many visitors over conventional time period.
- May want to check into a billboard advertisement for the museum.
- June 9 and 10 – trip to new museum in Norman, OK.

Raffle and Membership Committee – Lou Leviticus

- $104.00 (sales to date) raffle for a tractor (value – $2,000).
- Will be included in newsletter to go out after this meeting.
- Where to sell tickets – Camp Creek, Husker Harvest Days, Clay Center, – others?

Brochure Committee Report – Norm Tooker

- Handed out draft of Museum brochure.

Book Sales Report – Bill Splinter

- ASAE will provide tractor books to place in museum at 40% discount.
- Companies that make model tractors might be willing to provide scale model tractors to Museum for sale.

Newsletter – Bob Kleis

- Newsletter next week and one in August. Another late fall to set stage for annual meeting next January.

Tools display room.

Tractor developments.

Swap meet at Camp Creek, May 20 – $10.00 entry fee.

Budget allocations.

Other items?

- May 6 – one hundred tractors for sale in North Platte.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard L. Bashford

The Farmall Regular was the first successful row -crop tractor with high clearance axles and tricycle front end and it allowed cultivation of corn until the corn was waste high. The steering system activated individual brakes and guided the cultivator.

The Allis-Chalmers WC was the first tractor tested on rubber tires. They were 25% more efficient on the drawbar.

The Ford-Ferguson was the first successful three point hitch tractor, setting the standard for mounted equipment throughout the industry.

An Allis-Chalmers with the tip-over frame was used to study and demonstrate the hazard of overturn by tractors. This lead to the development of roll-over protection cabs as illustrated by a case tractor with a cab manufactured by the Egging Manufacturing Company of Gurley, Nebraska.

OTHER HISTORICAL SITES OF INTEREST IN THE LINCOLN AREA

Other sites of historical interest in the Lincoln area include:

- A collection of more than 900 quilts on display at the College of Home Economics. (one block from the Tractor Test Station)

- The Nebraska State Historical Society in Downtown Lincoln. (One mile from the Tractor Test Station)

- The Museum of Natural History on the downtown University of Nebraska Campus. (One mile from the Tractor Test Station)

- The Camp Creek Thrashers exhibition held the last weekend in July near Waverly, Nebraska. (Ten miles east of the Tractor Test Station)

- The SAC Aircraft Museum (At Mahoney State Park. (25 miles East of the Tractor Test Museum)

LESTER F. LARSEN

TRACTOR TEST MUSEUM

PICTURE

PARAGRAPH ON SIGNIFICANCE

THE LESTER F. LARSEN

TRACTOR TEST MUSEUM

The Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test Museum consists of the original Nebraska Tractor Test facilities plus collections by former Professors in the Department of Agriculture Engineering (Now the Biological Systems Engineering Department). These collections include the testing facilities and equipment used in testing the tractors at the Tractor Test Facilities, and a sample if some of the tractors tested.

The building also houses the Chauncey W. Smith collections of pioneer artifacts which are believed to have been assembled prior to 1927. This collection includes household articles, hand tools and animal drawn implements tracing the development of the plow, early cultivators, early planters and haying tools from the 1700's and 1800's.

The former Tractor Test Laboratory building was declared a Historic Landmark by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers and was dedicated in 1980. Through the efforts of the Friends of the Nebraska Tractor Test and Power Museum, funding was raised for the renovation of the building. On May 2, 1998 the building was officially named the Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum.

Professor Lester F. Larsen, for whom the museum is named, was Engineer in charge of the Nebraska Tractor Test Laboratory from 1846 to 1975. Following his retirement and with the move of the tractor testing activity to the new Biological Systems Engineering Laboratories building, professor Larsen initiated the collection of historic tractor test equipment, as well as tractors, to illustrate the key developments in agricultural tractors over the years.

LOCATION - The Museum is located on the site of the original Tractor Test Laboratory on the East Campus of the University of Nebraska -Lincoln and is located one block East and two blocks North of 33rd and Holdrege Street in Lincoln, Nebraska.

SIGNIFICANCE - The Nebraska Tractor Test Facilities and programs have been world renowned. The test data have been relied upon by tractor buyers from around the world.

ORIGIN AND NEED OF THE TEST FACILITY - The unsatisfactory performance of some of the early tractors sold in the state lead to the passage of the Nebraska Tractor Test Law. The Tractor Test Facility was established by the Nebraska Legislature in 1919. The Tractor Test Law was written by farmer and legislator W . F. Crozier joined by Senator Charles Warner as co-sponsor.

There have been several individuals and groups of people in Nebraska who have been interested in the preservation and restoration of antique tractors and farm machinery. One such group was interested in preserving the Nebraska Tractor Test facility and preserving samples of tractors tested at the World Famous Nebraska Tractor Testing Station. That group named "The Friends of the Nebraska Tractor Testing Station" took the initial steps to preserve and revitalize the Testing Station.

A UNIQUE GENERATION - These people have been a unique generation who owned and/or operated many of the implements that need to be preserved. They are the last of a generation who experienced and lived the development of farm mechanization and the transition from muscle powered horse drawn and hand labor agriculture to the petroleum powered hydraulically and electronically controlled examples of modern mechanized ingenuity.

This transition saw the development of steel framed horse drawn implements; the development of steam powered tractors for pulling field implements, and which could be used to furnish stationary belt power.

The development of petroleum powered tractors of various vintages are included in the tractor test collection. These include the transition from steel wheeled tractors to more modern rubber tired tractors and implements.

It is imperative that the pool of knowledge of the current generation of interested people be involved in recording the stories and history of the development of agricultural mechanization while these people are still available to lend their mark to history.

CURRENT TRACTORS ON DISPLAY - The present collection of tractors includes a 1908 Ford tractor, (not manufactured by Henry Ford but by a company in Minneapolis) whose unsatisfactory performance led to the writing of the Nebraska Tractor Test Law.

The current collection of tractors at the museum also includes a Waterloo Boy tractor on loan from Frank Hledik of Clarkson, Nebraska. The Waterloo Boy was the first tractor to successfully complete the test in 1920.

The test, which was specified in the original tractor test law and still remains the basic test world wide, only requires that tractor manufacturers meet their advertised claims of tractor performance.

A Heider tractor illustrates the development of friction drive tractors in the early 1900's.

The 1918 Moline Universal D was far advanced for its time, having a generator, battery, starter, lights, articulated steering and a mounted plow or cultivator, but was quit expensive.

The Fordson tractor, made by the Henry Ford Company was advanced in many ways with fully enclosed engine-transmission-differential and was mass produced for lower cost. The tractor was the least efficient tractor ever tested, however, it outsold all competitors.