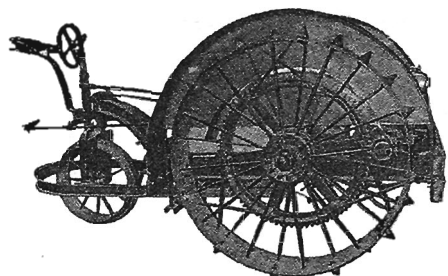


Friends of the Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum



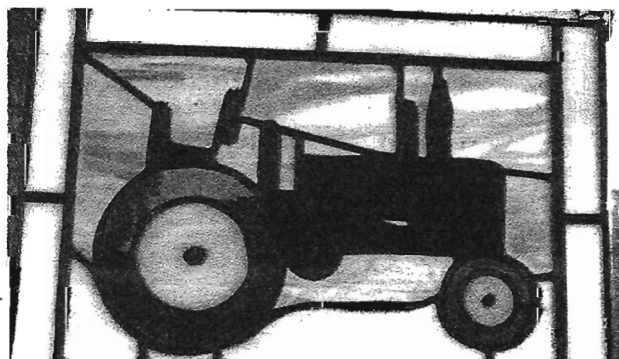
Judy L. Ray – Editor Newsletter #20 December 2004

To collect, preserve, research and interpret the traditions and technologies of agriculture.

Check Our Website!

The Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum web site has added a new feature. Please check out the web site to see our gift shop items on display. Gail Ogden, Communications Associate at Biological Systems Engineering, has created a beautiful display. She is a tremendous help and very talented. She not only came over to the museum to take the photos of our gift items but she also helped write the creative descriptions of the items.

Included in the display are the finely crafted art glass hangings done by Museum Friend and volunteer Phil Dinges. Phil will custom make tractor art glass if you give him a picture of the tractor. Also displayed on the web are pencil drawings of antique tractors drawn by Craig Cassell. We also feature some of our books and calendars on the web. Please give the web site a look and tell us what you think. Better yet come in and look at the selection and give us your opinion. Think of a gift from the Tractor Museum for that tractor enthusiast on your gift list!



New Museum Hours

The Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum is open on Saturdays and Sundays. In addition to the museum's regular week day hours the weekend hours are Saturday 10-2 and Sunday Noon-4. This will give people who work during the week a chance to bring their family and friends to see the museum. After a couple of test runs it was determined that the museum needed to be open on the weekends. We hope that you come and visit the museum when you are looking for something to do that is fun and educational. The weekend hours will also give the folks who live out of town a chance to visit us.

The museum was open on the Friday after Thanksgiving and twenty people came in to look around. Families from Michigan, Colorado, Western Nebraska as well as neighbors from just down the block came in to see our unique exhibits. Please spread the word that the museum is open on the weekends.

We will have special hours over the University's Holiday close-down December 27th through 30th of 10 am-2 pm. We will be closed the Christmas and New Year's weekend. Call 472-8389 if you have questions.

18 Board Meeting & Election

Jan. 11, 2005 1:30 p.m.

This meeting will be held at Chase Hall, just south of the Tractor Museum on the East Campus UNL.

Lester F. Larsen
Tractor Test & Power Museum
UNL East Campus, 35th & Fair St.
P.O. Box 830833
Lincoln, NE 68583-0833

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E-Mail tractormuseum2@unl.edu

Officers:

President: Charles Borcharding
V. President: Don Edwards
Secretary: Leonard Bashford
Treasurer: Bob Kleis

Board of Directors:

Past Pres.: Earl Ellington
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Harold Borman
Charles Fenster (Gering)
Richard Goodding
Lawrence Hermann
Jerry Kohl
Mark Lynott
Bill Overturf (Oak)
Ervin Rolofson
John Smith
Russ Tooker (David City)
Dale Vanderholm

Ex-Officio:

Louis Leviticus
Susan Norby
William Splinter

Who's New?

Hello there! I am Donna Martin, the new Museum Development Assistant. Currently I am working on finishing my degree in Museum Studies at UNL. I worked at the Larsen Tractor Museum as an intern in 2003.

My primary agenda for the museum is archival arrangement of the extensive tractor test documents and the development of the museum for the future. There are many artifacts and documents available at the museum but many people are not aware of the wealth of information we have. I am committed to finding creative and effective ways to make the public aware of this fantastic museum. Like my predecessors Luis Vasquez and Amanda Ray I am looking forward to being an asset to the development of the museum.

I am replacing Amanda Ray who left us to go to be the Director of the National Roller Skating Museum at 48th and South Street. Go see Amanda at the Roller Skating Museum. If you haven't been to this fabulous museum you will be surprised at the extensive collection housed in this museum.

The front burner item that we are working on right now at the museum is the very important historical designation of the building. We are striving to get the former tractor test lab designated as a National Historic Building. This will benefit the future of the Tractor Museum immensely. Not only will it help publicize how unique, important and one-of-a-kind we are, it will help us gain grant money for preservation and restoration. Most importantly it will help us find grant money for the infrastructure such as heating, cooling and air quality.

I am really looking forward to the challenge of keeping the museum in the spot light of historical research and preservation of agricultural technologies. Please stop by and say hi. I am always open to ideas and look forward to your input.

MUSEUM HOURS

MON-FRI 9AM-4 PM
SATURDAY 10AM-2 PM
SUNDAY NOON-4 PM
CLOSED NOON HOUR
HOLIDAY HOURS:
DEC 27-30 10AM-2PM
CLOSED DEC 24-26
CLOSED DEC 31-JAN 2

Volunteer Andrea Arbuck is shown working diligently in the archive room at the museum. Andrea is an employee at Love Library on the UNL City Campus. She works for Technical Services. Andrea is from Lincoln and her degree is in Great Plains Studies. As a student Andrea played clarinet and baritone in the UNL Marching Band. We are very fortunate to have Andrea here to help us get the archives in order. She is working on transcribing inventory logs into the computer and inventorying documents.



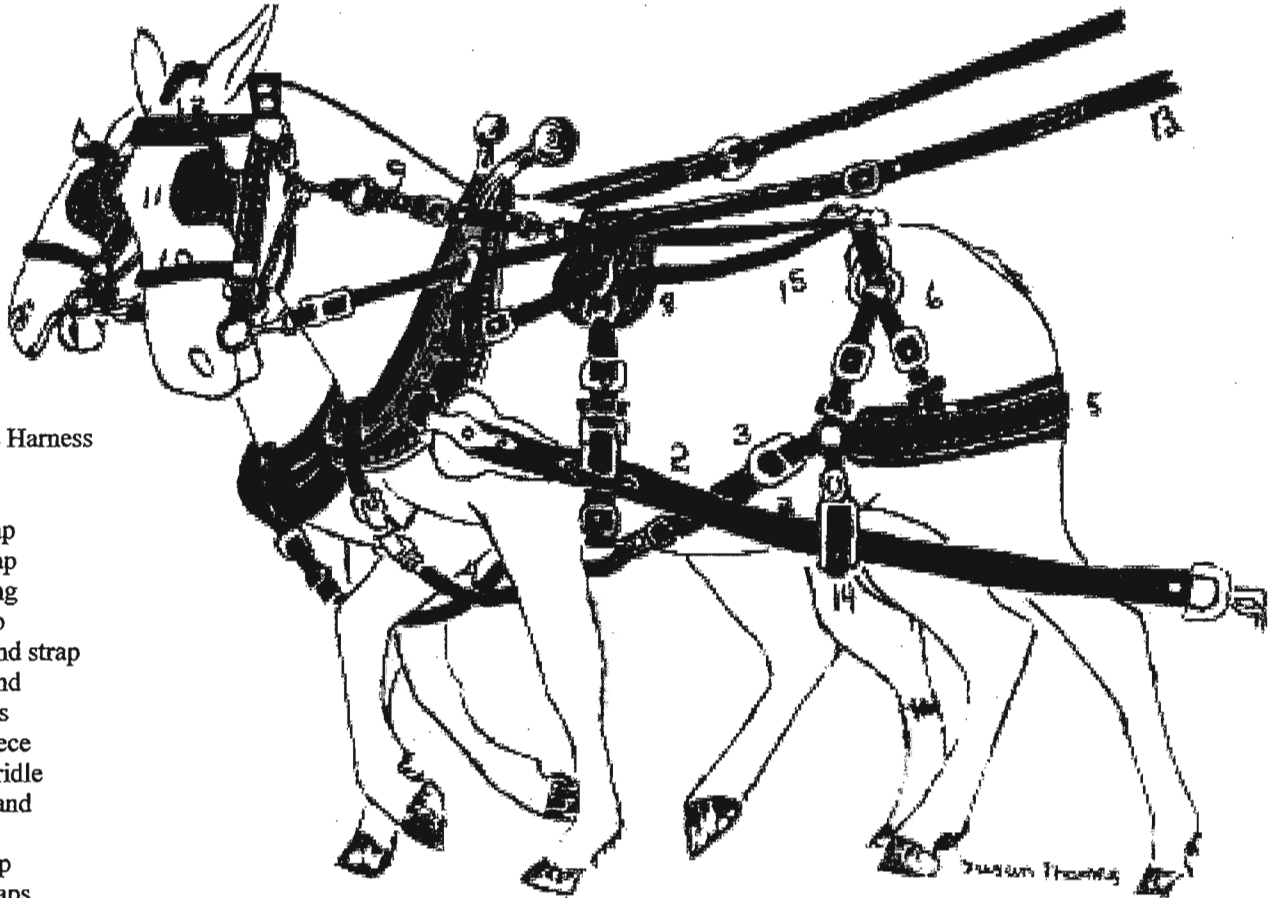
Thank you,
Andrea, for
your time and
effort.

Benefits Derived From Tractor Tests

Copied from a 1970's write-up by someone in tractor testing

1. Early tests showed imperfections in construction
 - a. Open chains and gears
 - b. Poor air cleaners if any
 - c. Excess weight
 - d. Inefficient engines
 - e. Manufacturers claims
 2. If true performance figures were advertised then there would be no need for Tractor Testing. However, this is (not) the case. Even yet Mfgs. often use bare engine power for advertising drawbar power. Test results stabilize advertising, several companies have been called "on the carpet" for misleading advertising.
 3. Tractor law requires that repair parts be available for tractors in Nebraska. All tractors need repairs sooner or later.
 4. The Nebraska Tractor Test furnished the first information showing the benefits derived from the use of pneumatic rubber tires on tractors.
 5. Over the years the results have furnished the only direct comparison of tractor performance since 1920 (in the world), comparisons of different transmissions and configurations (4 wheel), comparison kerosene, distillate, gasoline, propane, and diesel.
 6. Fuel economy was of great importance in the period from 1930 to 1960. Then increase of power became important and fuel economy suffered. Now with fuel shortage it is being revived.
 7. Following World War II fuel heating and loss of power became a problem. This necessitated new locations for the fuel tank (gasoline). We have been told that John Deere's location of fuel tank was followed by a suggestion from Test Lab.
 8. The testing for noise and sound probably did more good to help the operator's environment than most any aid in modern times. Tractor testing certainly stimulated rapid improvement in operator comfort far beyond any expectations. This was objected to quite severely by Mfgs. in the beginning.
 9. The first 4-wheel drive tractor built by J.I. Case gave good fuel economy on the PTO. The company representative asked to make a recheck hoping to do better than MF tractor showed real good results. This indicates a renewal in fuel economy interest.
 10. The dangers of over fueling to obtain more power were illustrated in several cases recently during the testing procedure.
 11. The use of Turbo chargers was abused in some of the more recent tests. This illustrated that these innovations must be designed on the unit and not an add-on attachment.
 12. Radial tractor tire testing slowed down much false advertising.
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Power of Another Source

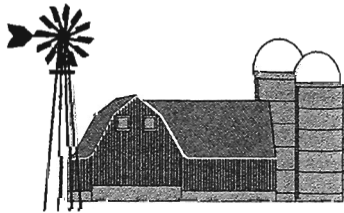


Parts of the Harness

1. hames
2. tugs
3. jack strap
4. pole strap
5. breeching
6. hip strap
7. back band strap
8. back band
9. gag reins
10. nose piece
11. blind bridle
12. brow band
13. lines
14. lug strap
15. side straps

**Friends of the Lester F. Larsen
Tractor Test and Power Museum
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Lincoln, NE 68583-0833**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



FYI January 1 begins a new membership year. Please continue your membership and send your annual \$10 made to the "Friends" of the Larsen Tractor Museum to the address on this newsletter. Donations can be made to Larsen Tractor Museum or via University of NE Foundation. Please let us know if you do not wish to receive the newsletter.