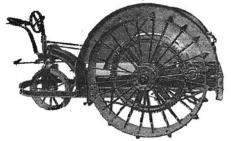
Friends of the Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum



Judy L. Ray - Editor

Newsletter #22

July 2005

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

Museum Happenings

The Larsen Museum is in full summer swing. This is a busy time of year for the Museum. We have committed to five tractor shows this year. They are Platte Valley Machinery Association in Ayr, NE July 9-10, Camp Creek Threshers in Waverly, NE July 16-17, Nebraska State Fair in Lincoln, NE August 27- September 5, Old Trusty in Clay Center, NE on Sept. 10-11 and Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island, NE Sept. 13-15.

If you want to see the Museum in full bloom now is the time to come over and look at our front entrance. The flowers are beautiful. Many of these plants have been here for a number of years and they are reaching a nice size and the blooms are gorgeous. Judy Ray and Gail Odden have been nurturing this area for guite a while. We have a number of valuable volunteers keeping the flowers watered, weeded and cleaned up. Don Johnson comes in three times a week to process and describe photos, but he also waters all of the flowers and I think I have noticed him chatting with them from time to time also. Liam and Connor Mullin along with their mom and dad Leslie and Peter come in once a week to clean the Museum and water the garden. They also planted some lovely native grasses and drought resistant plants. Jeremy Steele landscaped the McCormick Deering just to the west of the Museum and it now stands out quite nicely. Jim Willis donated and helped plant some pretty posies also. Please come over anytime of the day or night and admire this lovely area. Pull a weed or two while you are here!

The Museum is buzzing with activity. Volunteer Partners has helped us find some really valuable and needed help. In addition to the volunteers we have depended on for many years we are also happy to have Jack Fingeret around to perform general maintenance and repair. Sandy Luebbers is scraping and painting the interior walls. Margaret Howie is processing and inventorying in the archives. Al Brhel is working on the glass plates and identifying many of the individuals and tractor tests from the early forties. Kerry Taylor has also been helping with the glass plates and inventory of the blue prints.

Josh Medley helps with odd jobs. He recently fixed the lawn mower Gail Ogden donated to us. Thanks to Gail by the way for finding this much-needed machine for those days when the grass seems to grow a foot. Jerry Kohl and Phil Dinges have been working feverishly on the John Deere H. We are hoping to get the tractor moved out of the garage so we can get the space ready to exhibit more artifacts. Larry Ehlers continues his mission to get all of the tractor signs up to speed so that they are accurate and easy to read. Andrea Arbuck continues to come in to work on the tractor test files so that the staples and paper clips are removed. Jared Teichmeier is busy caulking the outside of the building. Jeremy Steele, was mentioned above as helping with landscaping but he has also taken a special interest in the Museum's education mission. Come in and see the fun scavenger hunt he has set up for the kids.

We had a visitor from Scotland come in the other day with important information about some of our hand tools and horse equipment. He was visiting from the Highland Folk Museum in Kingussie Scotland. More about that later. He will send us more information when he returns home.

I have been here six months and I am enjoying the challenge. I have decided to return to school in January of 2006 to get my nursing degree. I hope to remain here at the Museum until December in some capacity to finish up some of the projects I have going. We are still trying to get the building designated a historic site. The Chancellor and Vice Chancellor visited the Museum in June and we are hoping they give us the go ahead to continue with the application. We hope to continue our discussion about what is best for the archive material. Should we store it here at the Museum or transfer it to Love Libraries Special Collections? Do we look for funding to restore the exterior of the Museum first or concentrate on funding for heating and cooling? These questions and more keep the folks here at the Lester F. Larsen Museum hoping and hopping.

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Ex-Officio:

Louis Leviticus

Susan Norby

William Splinter

MUSEUM HOURS

MON-FRI 9AM-4 PM SATURDAY 10AM-2 PM SUNDAY NOON-4 PM CLOSED NOON HOUR

John Carlile was a technician at the Tractor Test Lab for many years. Lou Leviticus found this in one of our books. It is by John and we thought our readers would get a chuckle out of it even though it may not be politically correct:

Message From W.E. Splinter, Director

The 8th Annual Larsen Museum Open House was a success! Over 250 people came to the Museum to see the tractor demonstrations, eat ice cream, and see a father and son rope making team at work. The event exceeded our expectations. We had a number of families with children who had never been here before stop by and see the tractors. In the morning before our afternoon program we saw 15 dozen cookies disappear. For our ice cream social after the tractor demonstration we saw 175 cones of ice cream disappear so the crowd was happy and well fed. The rope making demonstration by Jeremiah and Lyndon Ochsner drew a crowd all day and many kids got to have a free jump rope made especially for them with their own choice of colors. One little boy was going to go home and rope his sister. I told him he had better not try to rope his mother. A group of folks from Cortland, Nebraska drove their tractors in to Lincoln just to participate in the open house. The weather was beautiful and we all had a great time. Thanks to everyone who participated.

From the Desk of Lou Leviticus

Yes, Victoria, there is a Santa Claus. I found some very valuable history in Frank Walters' material. That is one of the fruits of groping through our printed archival material. Let me go back a few steps and start at the beginning. Some weeks ago a visitor brought us an article from the Summer 1975 issue of "Nebraska History". In it there was an article about a HENRY OLERICH of Omaha, who had, among many other things, developed a tractor, the "Olerich All Purpose Tractor" which "HAD BEEN TESTED IN 1917"! There was even a photograph of that tractor. Now, we all "know" that Nebraska Tractor Testing started in 1920 – don't we? We said: "Nah, must have been the plowing demonstrations in Fremont."

Well, we were wrong. In Frank Walters' (bless him for collecting so much stuff) material I found an article by Leon W. Chase called "Nebraska Tractor Tests, 1917." In the article Chase describes the tests on 90 "Traction Engines" over a period of two weeks before and two weeks after the public plowing demonstrations which were held that year in Fremont. Special dynamometers and measuring methods and equipment were used and the results were published in detailed tables and graphs of the performances of the various machines.

It is clear that these were "official and scientific" tests and that they laid the foundation for the methods and procedures for the final actual tests which started to be performed in Nebraska in 1920 and which were the foundations for the ASAE and SAE standards. We owe a great amount of thanks to Frank Walters and to Charlotte Walters, Frank's widow, for putting these materials at our disposal.

Since this is very valuable and fragile material, we will make copies on request for those interested in studying the article. It is well written and worthwhile.

Pants Are Made For Men
Women Are Made For Men, and Not For Pants
When a Man Pants For a Woman
And a Woman Pants For a Man Then
They are Called a Pair of Pants
Such Pants Do not Always Last Then
They are Called Breeches of Promise Then
This May Turn into A Suit.

Spotlight on the Friends Board Featuring Russ Tooker

We continue our Spotlight on the Friends Board with Vice President of the Board Russ Tooker. Russ got interested in the Larsen Tractor Museum because his dad was on the original board. Norm Tooker, Russ' dad, passed away three years ago. Russ was born and grew up in Ralston, Nebraska and his dad was the County Agent for Douglas County. His family was always connected to agriculture and he wound up going to college at UNL from 1979-1983. His grandparents farmed near David City and Silver Creek, Nebraska.

Russ has been acquainted with many of the folks who have served as board members and who have been professors at UNL in the Agricultural Engineering Department, now known as Biological Systems Engineering. Russ's Dad, Norm Tooker and Friends Board Member, Earl Ellington, worked in the same building when Norm was working with International Programs on East Campus so Russ met Earl that way. Norm also worked with the International Students for ten years at UNL.

Russ has a degree in Agronomy Crop Production from the University of Nebraska and he farms near David City, Nebraska. This is where his mom's side of the family is from and his dad's side of the family is from Silver Creek. He farms both family farms. So Russ keeps busy farming two farms 30 miles apart. He relies on his mom and his wife to help him transport machinery between the two places.

The main crops that they farm are corn and soybeans. Russ used to raise pigs but he got out of that business about two years before the bottom dropped out of the market in the late nineties. He also rents out about 140 acres of pasture for cattle. When I asked Russ if it was possible to make money in corn and soybeans these days he said only if you have two or three wives working the farms.

Actually Russ only has one wife, her name is Julie. She works with quality control at a company in Columbus. Russ and Julie have been married since 1986. They met in College when they were both students on East Campus. Russ and Julie have a twelve year old son. Russ remembers looking out the dorm window in Burr Hall and watching the tractors going around the test track.

According to Russ the museum needs more hands on displays to interest students in the history of agricultural technology. He has a great idea about a display for the dynamometer which would use an exercise bicycle hooked up to an alternator. The alternator would be hooked up to a light bulb and when the person on the bicycle pedals the light bulb

would light up. Other displays that would be interesting are a hydraulic cylinder to show how the tractor test equipment works for the load test. This could be hooked up to a tractor seat and a pressure gauge to illustrate how the strain meter in the tractor test works. And some examples of how an engine works would be helpful. Anything that is hands on and that moves, lights up or makes noise would be interesting to young people.

As a board member Russ feels the most important aspect of the Friends Group is involvement. He would also like to see some tractor clubs involved. Russ would like to get KRVN radio interested in promoting the Tractor Museum. The radio station gives farm organizations five minutes of free air time on Friday afternoons. It would be great if we could get this kind of thing going. KRVN reaches a large audience that would be interested in hearing about the Museum. We could give a short history about Tractor Testing or how a specific tractor evolved over the years. There is an endless amount of information we could use for this sort of promotion.

Russ feels the mission of the museum is important because the transition of the horse from the tractor is important. Farmers did not go out and buy a car when they became available, they bought a tractor first and then rode to town on their horse when they needed to get a part for the tractor. The tractor is the first mechanical power they had out on the field. A tractor was something an individual could afford to bring more power to the farm. Some city people couldn't afford a car or a horse and at least the farmer had something that ran on gas and he did not have to feed it grain. If the tractor was not working it was not eating!

In the small agricultural community where Russ and his family live most kids are aware of where their food comes from. It is important for kids to know that the beginning of the food chain is not the grocery store. The grocery store is the end of the food chain. The idea of outsourcing food production is on the horizon and that is a scary thought Russ feels. The idea that the individual Nebraska farmer feeds over 200 people is important to remember. People in most third world countries have to work a day or two to afford a loaf of bread and a person in America works two minutes.

Donna Martin

Board Meeting
July 19, 2005 1:30 p.m.

This meeting will be held at Chase Hall.

Minutes of the April 19, 2005 Board Meeting

The April 19, 2005 meeting of the L.F. Larsen Tractor Test & Power Museum Board was held in the Sunflower Room of the East Campus Union. President Don Edwards presided. A total of 18 were in attendance.

Minutes of the January 19, 2005 meeting were distributed and accepted as presented.

Treasurer Robert W. Kleis was not present. His report was read by the Secretary and accepted as given. This showed a balance of \$15,348.91 as of April 19, 2005 in the checking account plus a CD of \$5073.50, both in the Union Bank.

The Curator's Report was given by Lou Leviticus. The Director's report was given by Bill Splinter. Mark Nickolaus gave the Docent's report showing 690 visitors to the museum for 2005 to date. Donna Martin gave the museum's activity report.

Items discussed during the meeting included:

- Participation at this fall's Nebraska State Fair.
- Additional space for the museum including space for the old Tractor Test Load Car.
- Publicity received by the museum in various publications and the benefits of museum recognition.
- The need for additional funding and the possibility of obtaining donated tractors which could be sold with the funds used by the museum.
- The possibility of the museum putting out a calendar.

The Museum's 8th Annual Open House is scheduled for Saturday, May 7th from 10 to 3 with tractor demonstrations at 1:30 and ice cream refreshments at 2:30.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., July 19th in room 225 of Chase Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Harold Borman, Secretary

Interesting Museum Visitors

In addition to folks from Australia, New Zealand and Scotland we have been very happy to meet people from all over the United States here at the Museum.

In early spring Eric Luebben and Gary Branch from southern California stopped in to see us. Eric was on a trip to return to California with a Luebben Baler on his trailer. His great-grandfather, Melchior, was the man who invented this amazing machine. The picture postcard he had with him is shown on the back page. On the post card the printing reads "Bale your Hay direct from the Winrow-capacity, 3 to 7 tons per hour. The bales are rain-proof and bound with twine. Luebben Baler Company, Beatrice, Neb."

In the summer 1984 issue of the Clay County Historical Society news quarterly Save Yesterday for Tomorrow George A. Woolsey, Jr. wrote "An innovative new agricultural invention that was conceived in Sutton soon after the turn of the century is today a timesaving and economical necessity on many farms throughout the world. In 1908 the Luebben Brothers Round Hay Baler was, without a doubt, "ahead of its time." Promoted as something new and something practical, the Luebben Baler was described in early advertisements as most appealing "to the man ready to mount the chariot of progress and be a leader in his community."

Eric and Gary spent many hours at the museum and the test lab. They were especially impressed with the ½ scale students and their projects. Eric and Gary left us with interesting material relating to the Luebben Baler. Thank you to Eric and Gary for their informative visit and support!

On June 27 Gaylord Bode and his wife came to visit his dad's 1951 Case LA. He knew the diesel engine was put in for more power in 1953 and it was one of the first models with turning brakes and has a chain drive, not gear. It took the kids to where the school bus could get through in the bad winter weather because in 1955 Charles and Marie (Egging) Bode worked on a sketch for a cab. Marie wrote the measurements on a napkin. Charles wanted it tall enough to stand up in with his cowboy hat on, and a sun visor like a semi cab. Marie's cousin had a bigger shop, and the Eggings built the cab and manufactured more. Gaylord's brother rolled a JD with a cab and it saved his life.

All our visitors are a treat to visit with and they seem to really enjoy the Museum.

Cushman Collector, Jim Brown



Jim Brown came to the Museum one day looking for information about the Ward Tractor Company. Come to find out he had more information about the Ward Tractor than we have. Jim is a collector and restorer of Cushman Motor Works material. He buys Cushman gas engines, parts, literature and memorabilia. This is why he is interested in the Ward Tractor Company. In an article Jim wrote for Gas Engine Magazine, June 2005 issue, he explains "It was not uncommon for early gas engines made for general farm or industrial use to find their way into both homemade and factorymade tractors. It was also not uncommon that many of these tractors had limited success. Such is the case with the Ward Tractor Company. Manufacturers of the Ward Tractor Plow, powered by Cushman Motor Works 2-cylinder engines, all made in Lincoln, NE."

Jim has provided us with a very nice display of Cushman memorabilia at the museum. He has also loaned us his 1910 Cushman 3 H.P. Model C #1046 "Binder" Engine. Please come to the Museum and see these unique items. Thanks to Jim Brown for loaning these items to us and for the information he has provided. Please take a look at the excellent article he wrote in *Gas Engine Magazine*. He even mentioned the Larsen Museum in the article! Thanks Jim.

by Donna Martin

A Visitor's Letter

Dear Donna,

Attached is a photo of Darcy at the testing laboratory. Hope this is sufficient for your article. We had a wonderful time at your museum and lab and will tell it as a highlight of our whole journey to the US.

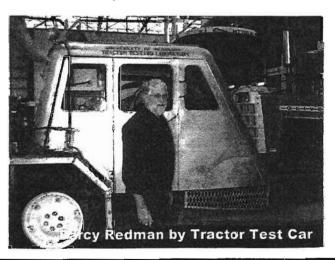
Briefly, Australian Darcy Redman visited the Nebraska facility on Friday, April 22nd. Darcy's interest in tractors stems from his childhood, when as a youngster living on a farm in Australia, he had an ambition to own a tractor and saved for his dream by collecting and selling wool from dead sheep. It doesn't sound like an instant way to wealth, but in times of

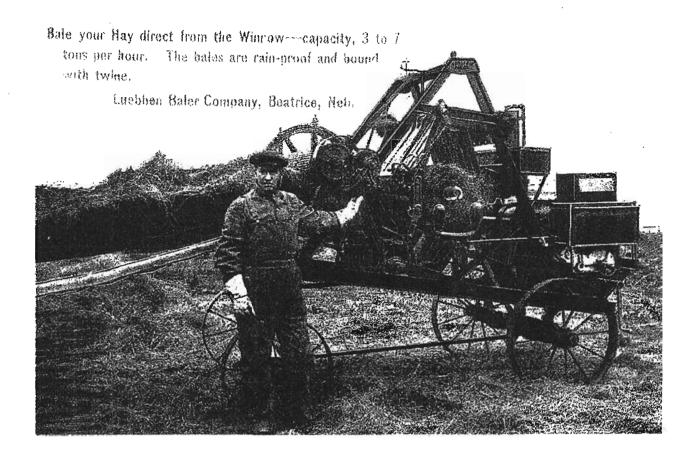
good wool prices in Australia, and by the age of ten years, would you believe, he was able to purchase his first tractor. It was a model N British built kerosene Fordson Major. He bought it with the intention of making pocket money on the farm by harrowing for weeds and towing a delva to level some of the rough black soil tracks used to access points where cattle were watered. His endeavours were shared by several adjoining farmers and before the age of eleven, he purchased a second kerosene Major on rubber tyres, and converted his original to rubbers as well.

Ambition drove him to develop a simple twin hitch and control. He and his friends of this age were guite capable of welding, driving vehicles, and using a wide A generous supply of second variety of tools. machinery soon resulted in a collection of a fourteen foot sundercut, an eighteen row combine planter, and an eight foot chisel set, along with extended harrows. Darcy involved a similar aged friend and it was obvious that they needed an addition to plant, so that both boys could be working at the same time. Darcy fulfilled a long ambition by the age of eleven and a half, and purchased a near-new exquisitely maintained model "L" Lanz Bulldog, exclusively for harrowing. He later owned another two Lanz Bulldogs of larger size, before selling off all of his equipment except the lovely little model L Bulldog before he went to boarding school at the age of fourteen years.

His affair with tractors did not end at this point. At college, he met a girl whose father owned an exquisite electric-start Lanz Bulldog and who had a truly wonderful daughter. He married Karin and they have been together for 38 years. Darcy is currently on a 10 week Churchill Fellowship to the United States to study water technology in arid environments, and visited the Nebraska facility as a matter of deep personal interest. It is certain that there is romance in tractors old and new. Thank you all very much for your hospitality at the Nebraska Museum and Test site. You are a world class facility.

Cheers from Darcy and Karin Redman





Friends of the Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum P.O. Box 830833 Lincoln, NE 68583-0833

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FYI January 1 began 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.