

Friends of the Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum P.O. Box 830833 Lincoln, NE 68583 - 0833 (402) 472-8389; Fax (402) 472-8367

## NEWSLETTER NUMBER EIGHT DECEMBER 1, 2000

On January 16, 2001 at 1:30 P.M., the Annual Business Meeting of the Lester Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum will be held in L.W. Chase Hall, UNL. All members and others interested in the museum are urged to attend.

A major event at our January 16 meeting will be the drawing for the winner of the M. H. Pony raftle. To date ticket sales have totaled nearly \$2500. But if you haven't bought or if you want more tickets it is not too late up to the time of the drawing.

The nominating committee offers the following nominations for the year 2001 to be acted upon at the annual meeting:

President - Earl Ellington

Vice-President - Charles Borcherding

Secretary - Glenn Hoffman

Treasurer - Shirley Trauger

New members of the Board - Jerry Kohl, Vern Anderson, and Richard Goodding

A reminder - January 1 begins a new membership year. Please continue your membership and send your annual \$10.00 dues to the address in this letterhead.

In addition to the address, phone, and fax information in this letterhead the LFLTT and P Museum may also be contacted through an E-mail address: tractormuseum2@unl.edu.

The museum has duplicates of some of tractors in its inventory. It is planned that some may be sold at the ARDC (Mead facility) in its late winter or early spring auction. You may want to watch for the publicity when the date is established. We gladly accept such item donations to assist our self funded development of the museum.

The reference library of the museum is available for public access anytime the museum is open or through communicated questions or requests. It has thousands of documents on agricultural mechanization in general and tractors in particular. It's there to be used.

May we pause in remembrance of Lester Larsen and of his distinguished professional and personal life. We are grateful that he had witnessed the dedication of this museum named in his honor. Tax deductible gifts to the Museum are appropriate memorials to Lester.

Bob Kleis, President

Board of Directors

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT



I am happy to report that the pedestrian door has finally been installed along with the 12 foot roll-up door, giving us a second pedestrian exit, in accordance with the fire code. These two doors replace the 16 foot north door. This has been an ongoing project for over a year and a few things still need to be completed such as the door sill. Nevertheless we are pleased that we now have a north entrance, which is more convenient for those parking on the north ramp. This entrance is also wheel-chair friendly and we demonstrated this by bringing Prof. Ole Olson over to visit the museum. He has provided a number of unique hand tools for the museum collection.

Over the past 20 years we have stored the tractors which we were unable to fit into the Museum in the old horse barn. That is no more. The University has demolished this old building to make way for additional parking.

We have moved six of our tractors to the historic Behlen building just north of the museum, thanks to the assistance of Dr. Milford Hanna, who cleared space adjacent to the mill he uses to process materials for the Industrial Agricultural Products Center. This building has a brass plaque identifying it as having participated in the atomic bomb tests in the 1940's. This site is more convenient to the museum than the horse barn and is easily accessable for visitors who wish to see the tractors stored there. We rotate the tractors so that visitors will see different presentations upon subsequent visits.

We recently received a John Deere "M" tractor which was provided by the family of Gordon Olson. Gordon worked as a test engineer in the tractor test lab from 1946 to 1950, when he joined John Deere at Dubuque, IA. The tractor is a pre-production prototype and the gift includes several items of experimental and production equipment such as plows, cultivators, disc's, mowers, blade and scoop. We were fortunate to get Fabian Skretta, a member of the Friends, to haul these items from the Jim Olson (Gordon's son) farm in northeast Iowa to Lincoln with his low-bed goose-neck trailer.

Luis Vasquez, our graduate student has done an excellent job in organizing and documenting our collection of hand tools and other artifacts from the 1700's and 1800's. We are now organizing the collection of early animal drawn tools so that visitors can more easily view them. Unfortunately Luis will be receiving his Masters and will be taking a museum position in Omaha at the end of the Semester. We hope to find another Museum Studies Master's student to continue bringing a professional structure to our program.

Three years ago we completed a project to replace the roof of the museum. Since then we have renovated the office, established an excellent reference library of tractor testing going back to the Winnipeg Plowing Contests, developed an exhibit of the hand tools collected by L. W. Chase, with additions by E. A. Olson, Louis Leviticus and Stan Liedtke, and

established an exhibit of early animal drawn tools. We have an excellent exhibit of the first sweep plow, developed by the Chase Plow Company, establishing conservation tillage for grain crops and the first till planter for row crops developed by Professors Hurlbut, Wittmus, Schnieder and Lane, establishing conservation tillage for row crops.

Our next objective, for which we need to raise funds, is the renovation of the old garage on the west side of the museum for use in renovating tractors. We have a new roof but need to replace the stucco exterior and add insulation, electrical outlets and heat.

We are going to sponsor an open house on Saturday, May 5, 2001, the third anniversary of the dedication of the Lester Larsen Museum. In the morning there will be a meeting of the Friends, followed by an open house. We would then allow Friends members to drive the tractor of their choice around the earth track and we will include rides in the Model T pickup. We will have an open house for the public during the afternoon. Should be fun and more information will follow. Put the date on your calendar.

Since our museum receives no State funded support other than water, electricity and steam, we exist only through the financial support of donors, membership dues for the Friends, sale of raffle tickets and books. We also are fortunate to have the support of individuals who help maintain office hours, assist with the renovation of tractors, the library and with shows such as the State Fair where we exhibit many of our tractors.

Our objective is to establish an endowment base of \$1 million to support the operation of the museum. Toward that end we have four endowments totalling \$190,000. The University Foundation invests these funds and they have a current market value of over \$440,000, from which the museum receives about a 5% return. Our day to day operations are supported primarily from donations toward our operating fund. Over the past 10 years we have had over 160 donors, ranging from \$1 to over \$50,000.

We strongly solicit your support through donations to the L. F. Larsen Tractor and Power Museum, University of Nebraska Foundation, 1111 Building, 1111 Lincoln Mall, Lincoln Mall, Lincoln, NE 68588. Our basic need is for donations at any level to provide for the day to day operation of the museum.

If you are in a position to donate a substantial amount, Susan Sack of the Foundation will assist with the establishment of an addition to a present endowment, the setting up of an individual endowment, the use of charitable remainder trusts or the use of a will. This is an investment in perpetuity. If you have any questions you are most welcome to call me at 402-472-8389.

We have had 564 visitors sign our guest book since dedication, which we estimate is about 1/3 of our visitors. We would be most happy to show you around whenever you are in Lincoln.

# "FIRST" AND "BESTS" - QUESTION ANDQUIZ

### by

### Dr. Louis I. Leviticus, Curator

My friend, and Museum Friend, Bill Teaford recently sent me a list of "First and Bests" which he thought might be a future wish list for us. He did not know all the "Firsts" and his list of "Bests" may be subjective in some cases (he retired from Big Green after all), but his fax gave me an idea for a quiz we could all learn from. A lot of info is out there but I have not seen a real good summary. So here's what I want you to help us with: I have made a list of "Firsts" subjects. Send us the info and critiques you have and what your source is. We'll then publish this list with the sources and your name and address (including e-mail if you want that) so a correspondence can be started. We may even decide to publish all the contributions in a "volume of firsts" for our Friends and other interested people.

Here are the questions and if you can think of others, so much the better.

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	<u>Answer</u>		Year
-			?
	Waterloo Boy		1920
	?		?
	_		1923
Rubber Tires			1932
Electric Starter on tractors			1917?
Electric Lights on tractors	Moline Universal?		1917?
Mechanical Implement lift	?		?
Hydraulic Implement lift	John Deere A?		?
Three-Point Hitch	?		?
Load sensing Three-Point Hitch	Ford 9N or 2N?		1939
Automatic preset depth			
and draft control	?		?
Remote Hydraulic outlets	Allis-Chalmers WD and		
	Bruning Co.		?
Diesel Engine	Fendt Dieselross		1929/30
Auxiliary Starting engine	?		?
LP-Gas engine	?		?
Standard 540 rpm PTO	?		?
Standard 1000 rpm PTO	?		?
Independent (Live) belt pulley	?		?
Independent (Live) PTO	Oliver 88		1947
Planetary Hi-Lo shift	IHC MTA		?
Power Steering	?		?
Full planetary power shift	JD 3010 or 4010	1963	
Articulated chassis	?		?
Four-wheel steering	?		?
All-Weather Cab	MM Comfort Tractor		1938
Certified ROPS frame	JD 3020 or 4020		1966
Certified ROPS cab	?		?
"Quiet" ROPS cab	?		?
Air conditioning	?		?
5	?		? ? ?
Radial Tires			?
Rubber tracks			?
Power adjusted Rear wheels	?		?
	What was the first Liquid fuel engine Test number 1 Tricycle Tractor Narrow Front Rubber Tires Electric Starter on tractors Electric Lights on tractors Mechanical Implement lift Hydraulic Implement lift Three-Point Hitch Load sensing Three-Point Hitch Automatic preset depth and draft control Remote Hydraulic outlets  Diesel Engine Auxiliary Starting engine LP-Gas engine Standard 540 rpm PTO Standard 1000 rpm PTO Independent (Live) belt pulley Independent (Live) PTO Planetary Hi-Lo shift Power Steering Full planetary power shift Articulated chassis Four-wheel steering All-Weather Cab Certified ROPS cab "Quiet" ROPS cab Air conditioning Integral Global positioning system Radial Tires Rubber tracks	What was the firstAnswerLiquid fuel engineHart ParrTest number 1Waterloo BoyTricycle Tractor?Narrow FrontFarmall RegularRubber TiresAllis Chalmers UElectric Starter on tractorsMoline Universal?Electric Lights on tractorsMoline Universal?Mechanical Implement lift?Hydraulic Implement liftJohn Deere A?Three-Point Hitch?Load sensing Three-Point HitchFord 9N or 2N?Automatic preset depthAllis-Chalmers WD andBruning Co.Fendt DieselrossAuxiliary Starting engine?LP-Gas engine?Standard 540 rpm PTO?Independent (Live) belt pulley?Independent (Live) belt pulley?Independent (Live) belt pulley?Independent (Live) broOliver 88Planetary Hi-Lo shiftIHC MTAPower Steering?Full planetary power shiftJD 3010 or 4010Articulated chassis?Four-wheel steering?All-Weather CabMM Comfort TractorCertified ROPS cab?"Quiet" Rops cab?<	What was the first Liquid fuel engineAnswer Hart ParrTest number 1Waterloo BoyTricycle Tractor?Narrow FrontFarmall RegularRubber TiresAllis Chalmers UElectric Starter on tractorsMoline Universal?Electric Lights on tractorsMoline Universal?Mechanical Implement lift?Hydraulic Implement liftJohn Deere A?Three-Point Hitch?Load sensing Three-Point HitchFord 9N or 2N?Automatic preset depth and draft control?Remote Hydraulic outletsAllis-Chalmers WD and Bruning Co.Diesel EngineFendt DieselrossAuxiliary Starting engine?LP-Gas engine?Standard 540 rpm PTO?Standard 1000 rpm PTO?Independent (Live) belt pulley?Independent (Live) PTOOliver 88Planetary Hi-Lo shiftIHC MTAPower Steering?Full planetary power shiftJD 3010 or 40101963Articulated chassis?Four-wheel steering?All-Weather CabMM Comfort TractorCertified ROPS cab?"Quiet" ROPS cab?Alir conditioning?Integral Global positioning system?Radial Tires?Rubber tracks?