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Tractor Test and Power Museum, The Lester F.
Larsen

October 1993

Notes from Museum Committee Meeting October, 1993

Tractor Museum

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September 8, 1993

Mr. Fred Chase
2171 Gulf Shore Blvd., #601
Naples, FL 33940

Dear Fred:

This is to confirm that the next meeting of the Tractor Test Museum Committee will be at 10:00 AM, Room 225, Biological Systems Engineering Building on Thursday, October 21. The agenda will include:

Report on State Fair Antique Tractor exhibit--Larsen

Report on discussion of Tractor Test Museum with Vice Chancellor Omtvedt--Splinter

Status of Tractor Test building roof--Splinter

Proposed inventory of museum items and suggested display--Genoways

Organizing a Friends of Tractor Test as a support organization--Splinter and Genoways

Current funding status--Hoffman

Other items

We will plan to adjourn by noon.

Please advise me at 472-5511 if you are unable to attend.

Sincerely,

W. E. Splinter
Chairman

c: Committee members

also to Com. member

NOTES--TRACTOR TEST MUSEUM COMMITTEE

October 21, 1993, 223 Chase Hall, 10:00A

Present--Maresh, Hoffman, Larsen, Melvin, Kleis, Vanderholm, Chase, Genoways, Fenster, Trougher, Smith, Tooker, Splinter

Walters had come to Lincoln Oct. 20. He expressed concern that we set up a reference library in connection with the Tractor Test Museum to include materials from old tractor test applications (which contain details of tractor design) and tractor operational manual and advertising collection of Ted Worrell in Montana.

Ellington had an illness in the family.

There was discussion of the preferences for exhibiting the collection of tractors and historic agricultural machines. If the State Committee is able to establish an agricultural equipment museum on the State Fair grounds we would cooperate with them and provide them UNL exhibits.

If the State Committee is unable to establish a museum, efforts would be made to develop an exhibit on East Campus, possibly north and east of the Biol. Syst. Research Lab. For the present Dr. Omtvedt has agreed to hold off any demolition of the tractor test building for a period of five years to allow time for organization of a permanent exhibit.

A preference was expressed to renovate the tractor test building to 1925 to show how tractors were tested by belt, using the Waterloo Boy--the first tractor tested-- and the original dynamometer. The East half of the building could be used to renovate and maintain the old tractors. This would be separate from a display of tractors and old machines. Part of the space could be used as a reference library or the library could be set up in conjunction with the main exhibit. This will have to be discussed with UNL administrators as the present agreement is only to allow time for development of a program.

A discussion was held concerning setting up a Friends of Tractor Test Museum public organization. It was agreed that Splinter would meet with the Board of the Friends of the Museum to discuss possible assistance in organizing. One alternative discussed was to form as a sub-group of the Friends of the Museum.

It was moved by Vanderholm and seconded by Kleis that up to \$1000 be authorized for a student in the Museum Studies Master's program to inventory the current collection and evaluate their importance and best method for exhibiting. --Passed

Chase moved, and Fenster seconded that we investigate setting up a Friends of Agricultural Tractor Test and Power Museum and that documents be developed for such an activity. Passed

Chase discussed the importance of temporary roof repairs for the tractor test building to protect its contents. Splinter reported he had contacted the City of Lincoln relative to the covers for the tennis courts which had been damaged by a wind storm. They are willing to sell them for a modest price. Splinter was to continue these contacts.

Chase moved and Larsen seconded that we develop temporary roof repairs for the tractor test laboratory.--passed

Shirley Trougher invited the Committee to meet at their place near Exeter to see their collection of antique farm machines. It was agreed to meet there at the time of the next State Fair Museum Committee meeting.