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Tractor Test and Power Museum, The Lester F.
Larsen

March 2003

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Tractor Museum

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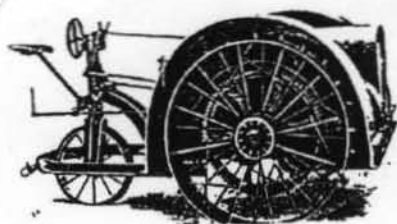
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Friends of the Lester F. Larsen
Tractor Test and Power Museum
P.O. Box 830833
Lincoln, NE 68583 - 0833
(402) 472-8389; Fax (402) 472-8367

March 19, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tractor Test & Power Museum Board Members

FROM: Charles D. Borcharding, President

SUBJECT: April 15, 2003 Meeting, Friends of L.F.Larsen TTAPM Board

Please mark your calendars for the meeting of the FOLELTTPM **Tuesday, April 22, 2003, 1:30 p.m., IN THE TRACTOR MUSEUM**
(Note change of room as Chase Hall already had scheduled a meeting)

AGENDUM

Welcome and Call to Order-----Charles Borcharding
Introductions -----Charles Borcharding
Minutes of January 14,2003 Meeting(Attached)-----Leonard Bashford(Sec.)
Financial Report-----Shirley Trauger
Director's Report-----Lou Leviticus
Report from Director-----Bill Splinter
Nebraska State Museum Director's Report-----Bill Splinter
Foundations Liaison Report-----Susan Sack
Museum Docent Report-----Mark Nickolaus
Museum Secretary and Newsletter Editor Report----Judy Ray
Fill Vacancy on Board-----
Development Projects and Membership Report-----Don EdwardsJ(V.P.)

Activities for 2003:

Meeting Dates: 7/15; 10/21; 1/19/04 (All at Chase Hall at 1:30 p.m.)

Bylaws Review ?

Open House - May 3, 2003

Additional Business

Adjourn

Board of Directors

Charles Borcharding, President - Donald Edwards, Vice President - Past President, Earl Ellington, - Leonard Bashford, Secretary - Shirley Trauger, Treasurer, (Exeter), Vern Anderson - 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) - James Estes - Louis Leviticus - Susan Sack Norby - William Splinter)

Interim Director's report to the Friends of the Larsen Museum

For Board meeting of April 22, 2003

Monday 04-21-03

1. We have had relatively few visitors. The main reason has been that we have such irregular hours that it is difficult for people to visit or get hold of someone. I had been hoping that, after the decision last year to set up a committee of Friends, we would have a program of volunteer people to keep the museum open at regular hours during the week and/or on Saturdays. Without this assistance from members of the Friends we cannot guarantee regular times except Tuesdays and Thursdays when Judy is here and Monday mornings when Jerry Kohl, a faithful Friend, and I are there.
2. We have received a corn hand planter, made by the Victor Company. It was donated by Dr. Glen Hoffman and belonged to his father who received it from his father who used it in the thirties near Miller City in Northwest Ohio.
3. Jerry and I have been working on some tractors and have also tried our hand at fixing up the magneto on the Fairbanks Morse single cylinder Hit-n-Miss engine (without much success so far I must say).
4. I found two Sachs two-stroke engines which were used for pumps. Didn't cost us a penny! These engines were in quite frequent use all over the world, including the US. I have not yet researched the age of those engines, but my guess is that they are about 60 years old. I remember the same engine type being used on Sachs motorcycles. That is another reason that I brought them in - we can always sell them to motorcycle collectors for a good "donation" to the museum.
5. Behlen building will be moved. Bill will provide more information for you on this. The tractors which were in the building were moved to the area behind the Museum and all of the implements we received with the John Deere 'M' have been moved from beside the old Behlen building to the area where our other implements are located. As soon as the building has been moved and fixed (the roof panels will have to be re-dipped first) we will rearrange the area.
6. I will continue with my activities at the museum but I have relinquished my membership in the Friends. The reason is simply that I do not feel that the Friends group has been doing enough to assist the museum. I feel that I can use my 10 dollars towards a book or subscription or a tool and it will benefit the museum directly.

I hope you have a fruitful meeting. Sorry I can't make it this week

Lou Leviticus

**FRIENDS OF THE LARSEN MUSEUM
BOARD MEETING
APRIL 22, 2003.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT
(Phoned in on April 15, 2003)**

Balance on January 15, 2003	\$5038.55
Income from memberships	\$ 350.00
Other Income	\$ 0.00
	<hr/>
Total	\$5366.55
Museum expenses paid	\$ 274.15
	<hr/>
Cash on hand	\$5114.40

Submitted By Lou Leviticus for Shirley Trauger.

Minutes of the Board Meeting
Friends of the Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum
April 22, 2003

Attendance: Vern Anderson, Leonard Bashford, Charles Borcharding, Harold Borman,
Don Edwards, Richard Gooding, Larry Hermann, Glenn Hoffman, Bob Kleis,
Susan Sack Norby, Bill Overturf, Ervin Rolofson, Bill Splinter, Russ Tooker

There were no minutes of the last meeting.

A written copy of the Treasurers report was provided by Shirley Trauger and is attached. The balance in the account is \$5114.40.

A copy of the Director's Report from Lou Leviticus was distributed and is attached.

Bill Splinter summarized his report. The report is attached.

Susan Sack Norby reported that \$160.00 has been received by the Foundation.

Charles Borcharding, Don Edwards, and Bill Splinter will meet to provide a name to fill a vacancy on the Board.

Shirley Trauger has asked to be relieved of her job as Treasurer. Leonard Bashford will serve in that capacity.

Development Projects and Membership report. Don Edwards discussed several ideas to stimulate more visitors to the museum.

The meeting dates for this year have been set as 7/15, 10/21, and 1/19/04. All meetings will be held in L.W. Chase Hall.

Bob Kleis will review the bylaws for accuracy.

There will be an open house May 3, 2003. The morning program will be from 0900 to noon and open only to the Friends of the Museum. There will be an afternoon program starting at 1:00 p.m. open to the public. The Tractor Test Laboratory will display their new load car and have an open house.

Interim Director's report to the Friends of the Larsen Museum

For Board meeting of April 22, 2003

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Lou Leviticus

Hall to most people). The immediate effect would be to eliminate five of the exhibit galleries on the third floor, which display artifacts from the anthropology collection such as the Omaha and Sioux materials, the Southwest Indian pottery and the African materials. The long term effect would be to eliminate changes and updates in the paleontology exhibits, the mammoths, rhinoceros, camels, etc., making them static exhibits. Thus repeat visitors would soon disappear, attendance would fall off and the program would atrophy.

This impacts the Larsen Tractor Museum since we report to the Nebraska State Museum and have derived major support, especially through the graduate students in Museum Studies that have assisted our development. The Museum Studies program has also been recommended for closure. Further, I have been asked to continue to serve as Interim Director of the State Museum until August. By that time the status of the State Museum should be clarified and a new Director selected.

The Larsen Tractor Museum has not been recommended for closure as we are funded almost entirely through donations to the University of Nebraska Foundation. I wish we had better news but that is the way it is. Maybe your State Senator should hear your views.



W. E. Splinter, Director

4/21/03

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

I would like to invite everyone to our Open House on Saturday, May 3 starting at 9:00 for our Friends membership, with a public open house then running from 1:00 until 4:00. We have three students working under the supervision of Jerry Kohl and Lou Leviticus getting as many of our tractors running as we can. Come by, kick some tires, drink some coffee or soft drinks, exchange war stories about tractors and have fun driving some of our collection around the track. The Tractor Test Laboratory will be in the middle of testing some Caterpillar Challengers and we are planning to have them give a demonstration on the track and also have an open house to see the test equipment and procedures.

Facilities Management is planning to install a much larger electrical substation in the area where the Behlen historic building stands. We have been using the Behlen building to store up to five or six of our tractors since we cannot get all of them in the Museum. We are working with Facilities Management to move the Behlen building to a location just north of the Museum, on what is now a grassed area. This will be much more convenient for us to allow visitors to see the tractors that are housed in that building. We are meeting with an engineer from Behlen on Thursday to see what might be done about the rusting that has occurred since the '40's. We would also like to insulate the building so that it can be used year around. The Behlen building is also used by members of the BSE department for storage and some processing so we have to work with them.

Last week I visited the Bolt Antique Wrench Museum in Oroville, CA. Carl Bolt is originally from the Kearney area and worked for Snap-on Tools for many years. In the process he collected over 3000 antique wrenches that he has cataloged and displayed on boards according to type of wrench. If we can find the appropriate space to display his collection he may be willing to donate it to the Larsen Museum.

As I reported in the newsletter, both the Tractor Test program and the Nebraska State Museum are under threat of closing at this time. LB 212 has been set as a Priority Bill by the Agriculture Committee in the Nebraska Legislature. It is being pushed by the Iowa/Nebraska Farm Equipment Dealer's Association and the Nebraska Farm Bureau. Should the bill pass it will remove the requirement that all tractors sold in the State of Nebraska have a permit to sell based on the determination by the Nebraska Tractor Test Board that the tractor meets its advertised claims for horsepower, sound level, hydraulic lift capacity and rollover protection. There will remain no requirement that a manufacturer submit their tractors for testing and therefore the Tractor Test Laboratory will need to be shut down. This will deprive farmers of the only unbiased source of information relative to the performance of tractors. With today's very high fuel costs, farmers must operate as efficiently as possible. Today's Lincoln paper covers several farmers that are going out of business because they cannot afford to continue farming. This proposed legislation could not come at a more inappropriate time.

Also, because of the state of Nebraska's economy, the University administration has proposed eliminating the research curators for the Nebraska State Museum (Elephant

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W. E. Splinter, Director

4/21/03