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Tractor Test and Power Museum, The Lester F.  
Larsen

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March 2004

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Tractor Museum

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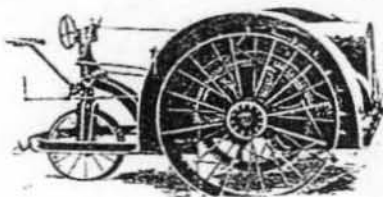


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Friends of the Lester F. Larsen  
Tractor Test and Power Museum  
P.O. Box 830833  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0833  
(402)472-8389; Fax (402)472-8367

**March 24, 2004**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Friends of the Lester Larsen  
Tractor Test and Power Museum Board**

**FROM: Charles D. Borcharding, President**

**SUBJECT: April 13, 2004 Meeting, FOLFLTTAPM Board**  
(Note: This is one week earlier than scheduled because  
several could not attend on the 20<sup>th</sup>)  
**PLACE: Chase Hall, Rm. 225; at 1:30 p.m.**

**AGENDUM**

Welcome and Call to Order-----Charles Borcharding  
Introductions-----Charles Borcharding  
Minutes of January 20, 2004 Meeting-----Leonard Bashford(Sec.)  
Financial Report-----Bob Kleis(Tres.)  
Curator's Report-----Lou Leviticus  
Director's Report-----Bill Splinter  
Nebraska State Museum Director's Report—Bill Splinter  
Foundation's Liaison Report-----Susan Sack Norby  
Museum Docent Report-----Mark Nickolaus  
Museum Secretary and Newsletter Editor Report—Judy Ray  
Development Projects and Membership Report—Don Edwards(V.P.)  
Activities for 2004  
Next Meeting Date: July 20, 2004 (Chase Hall, Rm. 225; 1:30 p.m.)  
Additional Business  
Adjourn

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Board of Directors

Charles Borcharding, President - Donald Edwards, Vice President -Past President, Earl Ellington, - Leonard Bashford, Secretary - Robert Kleis, Treasurer,  
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: Pricilla Grew - Louis Leviticus - Susan Sack Norby - William Splinter)

**MINUTES**  
**FRIENDS OF THE L. F. LARSEN TRACTOR TEST AND POWER MUSEUM**  
**APRIL 13, 2004**

Attendance: Vern Anderson, Charles Borcharding, Harold Borman, Don Edwards, Priscilla Grew, Larry Hermann, Bob Kleis, Mark Nickolaus, Susan Norby, Bill Overturf, Bill Splinter, Russ Tooker, Dale Vanderholm.

The minutes of the January 20, 2004 meeting were read. It was indicated that Dr. Grew's first name should be spelled with an "s". The corrected minutes were approved.

Bob Kleis submitted the Treasurer's report. He reported the Friends had assets totaling \$19,938.94.

Lou Leviticus was in Holland.

Bill Splinter submitted the Director's report. The gift from Vinod Gupta of \$10,000 was discussed.

It was moved and passed that the Gupta donation would be used to renovate the garage area.

It was moved and passed that the President, Vice President and Treasurer were authorized to approve the spending of the Gupta donation.

Charles Borcharding suggested that the Gupta donation and other significant donations be recognized with a plaque,

Priscilla Grew submitted her report. She reported that there was an improvement in Museum programs even though there had been a drop in attendance following the budget cuts. She also listed a number of coming events for the Museum.

Mark Nickolaus reported on attendance. He reported an attendance of 272 visitors since his last report. He also distributed a photo of the exhibit in Morrill Hall that illustrates the exhibits in the Larsen Tractor Museum and directs visitors who wish to come here.

Charles Borcharding discussed the disposal of the Farmall H, which had been donated to the Friends.

It was moved and passed that the Farmall H would be taken to the Camp Creek Swap Meet and sold at a set price or best offer.

The question was raised relative to Shirley Trauger's receiving a copy of the Newsletter.

April 13, 2004

Board Meeting, Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test & Power Museum

Report by Priscilla Grew, Director, University of Nebraska State Museum

A top priority of the State Museum in 2004 is to restore visitation and gate revenue for Morrill Hall and the Mueller Planetarium. A number of staff positions are now partly supported by gate revenue, following the 49% cut in the Museum's state funds budget. Effective July 1, 2003, many people thought Morrill Hall was closed by the budget cuts, and there was a dramatic drop in visitation. During each of the last 6 months of 2003, attendance was substantially lower the comparable period in 2002, resulting in a 30% drop in gate revenue for the period compared to the same months in 2002.

We have been actively working to enhance our public relations effort by generating more news releases, promoting special events, public appearances and advertising. During fall 2003, a UNL advertising class in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications developed ad campaign materials for the State Museum. We are now using some of their concepts and designs in our new 26-week advertising campaign in the Lincoln Journal Star in the Ground Zero section. We also have a new billboard for the Museum on North 27<sup>th</sup> Street. We have applied for and received approval from the UNL Campus Aesthetics Committee to put up banners on the front of Morrill Hall that will feature color wildlife photos by Lincoln's National Geographic photographer, Joel Sartore. Finally in February and March 2004 we have experienced our two first months in which the number for visitors to Morrill Hall were higher than the year before.

Museum researchers are actively working on proposals for submittal to the National Science Foundation. Andrew Smith, Research Assistant Professor in the Museum, has just been awarded a \$300,000 NSF grant for his entomology research in Chile and Argentina. Federico Ocampo has just completed his Ph.D. at UNL and started work as our new Collection Manager in Entomology on April 1; he will be appointed as a Co-Principal Investigator on Dr. Smith's grant.

Mary Liz Jameson, Research Associate Professor, is President of the Central States Entomological Association which is having their annual meeting in Lincoln on April 16-17, 2004. We are delighted she is bringing this important meeting to UNL.

Alan Osborn has been promoted to the position of Research Associate Professor in Anthropology in the Museum. He will be honored later this semester in the UNL Promotion and Tenure ceremonies. His new book Islands in the Plains will be featured along with Brett Ratcliffe's new book on The Dynastine Scarab Beetles of Costa Rica and Panama in the special UNL Book Authors Fair during the campus Research Fair April 21-22, 2004.

Important upcoming events in Morrill Hall include Astronomy Day April 18 (Sunday 1:30 to 4:30 pm in Morrill Hall), the Friends of the State Museum Auction Raffle on April 24 (5:30 pm Morrill Hall), and the opening of the Joel Sartore photograph exhibit in the Cooper Gallery "Fragile Nature: A Personal View" on June 6 with a special Friends of the State Museum preview reception on June 5, 2004. Jack Dunn and Kathy French are coordinating the preparations for Astronomy Day which will feature over 30 "stations" of science activities for the whole family, plus three Planetarium shows, in cooperation with the Prairie Astronomy Club, Neb-Star, the AirForce ROTC, the Strategic Air and Space Museum, the UNL Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, the Arnold Air Society, Hyde Observatory and NASA. Nagin Cox of the JPL Mars Rover team will give a talk at 7 pm April 18 in the Nebraska Union on City Campus.

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April 13, 2004

## Director's Report

### OPEN HOUSE

All are invited to attend and participate in the annual Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum open house on May 1, 2004. We will have an informal meeting with members of the Friends starting at 10:00 at which time we would like to have our running tractors exercised since Mark can no longer serve as our tractor exerciser. It is better to have the machines operated than to have them sit. We will have some Valentino's Pizza for lunch. Beginning at 1:00 we will have a public open house and would like the Friends to remain to answer questions and visit with our visitors. The Open House will end at 4:00.

### VOLUNTEERS

The help and assistance of our volunteers has greatly assisted in the Museum program. Mark Nicholas continues to be an effective Docent, taking visitors around the Museum. Bob Kleis donates time each Wednesday and has been responsible for cleaning out unused pipes, painting and replacing glass panes. Phil Dinges has been very helpful in building projects such as the break room and now the garage. Jared Techmeier has been assisting Phil on these projects. Donna Martin has been working with the visual aids and Jim Willis has recently joined with her in that project. Jerry Kohl has been teaching school shop, replacing a teacher called to service so we miss him. Kurt McConnell is working on the restoration of the MM Z.

### NEWSLETTER

We expect the next issue of the Museum Newsletter to be in the mail by the end of this week. You will note that we are adding new features each issue.

### INVENTORYING

Louis Leviticus is continuing the work started by Luis Vasquez inventorying items that we continue to find. We found some unique wrenches and Louis is doing some excellent research on the computer to find manufacturer and, if possible, year of manufacture. As we find out more information relative to any of our exhibits we update the informational sign for the object.

Donna Martin has been inventorying our collection of slides, movies etc. So far she has found that we have 600 early glass slides, over 5000 35mm slides, 1830 test reports, 90 movies, 500 books and historic documents and early projection equipment.

## GRANTS

We were offered only \$3000 for one of our grants that would have required us to nearly rewrite the grant so we said "no thanks" We will continue to try for grant funding to double our available funds.

## BUILDING

With the help of our volunteers we have greatly upgraded our break room and we are now in the process of upgrading the garage on the west side so that we can use that as an exhibit area. We plan to also upgrade the shop area, moving the tools to the Behlen building and using the shop for displays. This will allow us to show more of our collection in a more logical way.

## TRACTOR

We need to put together a program to auction off the Farmall H.

We are continuing to enjoy an increasing number of visitors which makes our efforts worthwhile.

W. E. Splinter

FEB. 22

45 VISITORS

"2 cylinders Club"  
CREIGHTON

MARCH 4

51 VISITORS  
"ASPENWALL COOP"  
IOWA

MARCH 19

12 VISITORS  
"SOLA FIDES ORGANIZATION"  
LINCOLN

APRIL 3

40 VISITORS  
"BIG RED COLLECTORS"  
LINCOLN & VICINITY

APRIL 8

10 VISITORS  
"RUTH STAPPERS DAY CARE"  
LINCOLN

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158 VISITORS - GROUPS

BETWEEN  
JAN. 21  
AND  
APRIL 13

→ 114 INDIVIDUAL VISITORS

272

TOTAL.



Friends of University of Nebraska  
Tractor Test and Power Museum

Treasurer's Report April 13, 2004

Balance from January 20, 2004		\$4,715.94*
Receipts since Jan.20, 2004		
Memberships	\$ 310.00	
Donations	<u>10,000.00</u>	
		10,310.00
Expenditures since Jan. 20, 2004		
Check #1004 - Museum		
(Newspaper Expenses)	<u>87.00</u>	
		<u>87.00</u>
Account Balance April 13, 2004		\$14,938.94
*Plus \$5000 CD maturing 9-13-04		<u>5,000.00</u>
Total assets April 13,2004		\$19,938.94