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NUTS & BOLTS

Official Publication of the Larsen Tractor Test & Power Museum



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issue four

Volunteer Opportunities

The Larsen Tractor Test & Power Museum is currently seeking individuals who would like to be volunteer tour guides. No prior knowledge of tractors or tractor testing is needed, all you need is willingness to learn and a desire to interact with our guests. Hours are flexible during the week, some Saturday availability will be required.

Please contact us for more information about becoming a volunteer.

Join us and become part of something BIG.

Museum Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 9AM - 4PM
Saturday 10AM - 2PM

East Campus, 35th & Fair
Lincoln, Nebraska
402.472.8389
tractormuseum.unl.edu



this issue

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Construction Begins on Splinter Gallery

Preparation is being made to begin construction on the Bill Splinter Memorial Art Gallery. The 12' x 20' gallery will feature gallery wall coverings, a drop ceiling, and gallery lighting that will set the stage for the rest of the Museum.

"We will be featuring artwork from students and artists from around the state, as well as cooperative exhibits from area galleries," Museum Manager Lance Todd said. The museum will also be creating their own feature exhibits, the first of which will be titled

Tractors in Film. It will depict famous movie scenes that prominently feature tractors. "We want to create some fun gallery exhibits for all of our visitors." Each exhibit will run for three to four months and rotate in and out.

Currently, the museum has raised all but \$5,000.00 of the total project. If you would like to contribute, please contact the museum. The projected opening of the gallery is sometime this fall.

Conserving 90 Years of Tractor Testing

One of the most neglected aspects of the Museum, since its creation in 1998, has been the Museum's library, which houses the entire collection of original test reports and documents dating back to 1920 when the Test Lab was formed.

"These documents have been stored in dusty filing cabinets and folded up since they were published; now it is time to begin the preservation process to ensure these documents will be around for future generations," Museum Manager Lance Todd said.

Currently, the museum staff and volunteers are sorting, identifying, and archiving the original test documents, which include rare advertising artwork and original photos of the tractors that were tested. See *Archives* Page 2



Get Involved

Become a corporate partner of the Larsen Tractor Test & Power Museum. There are two levels of participation.

Level 1 requires an annual donation of \$500. Your company will be recognized on our Partners Wall.

Level 2 requires an annual donation of \$1000, and your company will be recognized on our Partners Wall and listed as a sponsor on a Museum exhibit.

For more information on how to become a corporate partner, contact Lance Todd at 402.472.8389 or by email at ltodd6@unl.edu.

Fun Facts... and other non-sense

The idea behind tractor pulling began with horses. Around the 1860's, farmers boasting about the power and speed of their horses proved it by hitching the horse to a detached barn door filled with people and letting the horse pull it as far as it could.

People kept jumping on the door to add weight to the cargo, and the horse that pulled farthest with the heaviest load won.

Restoration Shop Overhaul

With another school year on the horizon, the restoration shop (located in the Behlen building north of the Museum) has been getting an overhaul to accommodate a new group of students for the *Tractor Restoration Club*. Minor changes that include better organization, less clutter, and more reliable tools are some of what Museum Manager Lance Todd has been working on this summer. "This year we want to hit the ground running and continue to grow our student club. We plan to complete restoration of a tractor that will then be sold to benefit the club's next project. Students will learn valuable mechanical skills as well as restoration and body shop skills they can carry with them into their professional lives," Todd said.

Students will also have to develop and implement fundraising strategies, which may include Museum events and other activities to fund their projects. The *Restoration Club* will be working on various Museum projects throughout the year, which will give them the opportunity to display the fruits of their labor.

If you have a tractor you are interested in donating for a restoration project, or you would like to make a contribution to the *Restoration Club*, please feel free to contact the Museum for more information.

Archives from Page 1

"These documents are very valuable to our museum for exhibits, but they may also be of value to individuals wishing to restore an antique tractor back to original form," Todd said.

So far the museum has processed nearly 300 test reports. There are about 2,000 reports left to go through.

OLLI Program Announced

The *Larsen Tractor Test & Power Museum* will be participating in UNL's OLLI Program, which provides several different courses to elderly adult learners who are interested in continuing their education.

The course will focus on the history of tractor testing at the University as well as current tractor testing procedures. The classes will be held on Tuesday mornings at 9am in Chase Hall and run six weeks, starting October 29th. Museum Manager Lance Todd will be instructing the class with different guest speakers during the six weeks.

"We are very excited to be involved with OLLI. There are so many folks that aren't familiar with the Test Lab, and the rich history of testing at the University," Todd said. Highlights of the course will include a tour of the *Nebraska Tractor Test Lab*, the *Larsen Tractor Test & Power Museum*, and indepth looks at past and current testing methods.

If you are interested in enrolling in this or any other OLLI course, please contact the OLLI Office at 402-472-6265 or online at unl.edu.

A Year of Progress

The Museum has undergone several changes over the past 12 months. New doors on the north and south sides have been installed, new landscaping is underway on the south side of the building, which provides a clear view of Museum from the street, and future planning is underway for interior and exterior exhibits.

Please contact us if you would like to help out with future Museum projects. Volunteers are a vital part of the Museum's success and longevity.

Free Ethanol in Legacy Engines Webinar

The Biological Systems Engineering Department will be hosting a free webinar in Chase Hall on August 30th at 10am. The webinar is titled *Ethanol use in Legacy Engines* and will be presented by Professor Edwin Brokesh of Kansas State University.

This webinar will look at the interaction of ethanol with different materials found in older engines. It will also consider the combustion process and what that may mean for the operations of an older engine. Participants should come away with a better understanding of the care and maintenance of an engine using ethanol-containing fuels.

Persons interested in attending should contact John Hay at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln at jhay2@unl.edu or 402-472-0408. You may also contact the Museum for more information.

Tractors on Display at the Lancaster County Fair

The *Larsen Tractor Test & Power Museum* invited local collectors to display their tractors at the Lancaster County Fair, August 1st-10th. Don Edwards' Allis-Chalmers "WC" and John Swanson's John Deere "B" were just a couple of the tractors on hand.

The Museum would like to invite anyone who has a tractor, in any shape, that they would like to display to feel free to participate in next year's fair. Information about the fair can be found at lancastereventcenter.com/superfair/ or you can contact the Museum for information on the 2014 fair.

"We want to give everyone the opportunity to bring out their equipment and show it off. The fair is generous enough to let us come out here and do this, and I hope folks enjoy seeing the tractors on display," Museum Manager Lance Todd said.

Museum Apparel Now On Sale

The Museum now has "official" *Larsen Tractor Test & Power Museum* items on sale in the Museum Store. T-shirts, polos, and caps are on sale, with all proceeds to benefit the *Friends of the Larsen Tractor Museum*.

Additional items will be added throughout the year as we renovate the Museum Store space in the south entryway of the Museum. The changes will include a new custom welcome desk, which will double as the check out counter for the store.

A drop in style ceiling will be installed and outfitted with track lighting to highlight items for sale and give the entry area a professional appearance. Corrigated steel panels have also begun to be fitted to the existing block walls as an accent, which maintains the Museum's industrial design.

Stop by throughout the fall to see all the wonderful changes taking place at the *Larsen Tractor Test & Power Museum*.

Facebook Giveaway

Like the *Larsen Tractor Museum* on Facebook and you will be automatically entered for a prize giveaway. As soon as we hit 125 likes, we will give out a prize to one of our random fans!



Scan the qr code with any smart device to go to our Facebook page.

Restoration Notes

Students will be back on campus this fall, which means our Restoration Club will be in full swing. We are planning on beginning a restoration project and having it finished by the end of the school year. The project will be featured in the next *Nuts & Bolts*.

If you would like to make a contribution to our student Restoration Club please contact Lance Todd at 402.472.8389 or by email at ltodd6@unl.edu.

Museum Needs

The museum is seeking the following items for display and exhibit purposes:

- Lugs for various models •
- 1961 Allis D19 Engine •

If you have any of these items, please contact Lance Todd at 402.472.8389 or by email at ltodd6@unl.edu.

larsentractormuseum@unl.edu
tractormuseum.unl.edu



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Museum Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 9AM - 4PM
Saturday 10AM - 2PM

Closed:

Sundays, Mondays & University Holidays



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Mission Statement:

To be the premier steward of advancements in agricultural technology through the development of collections, exhibits, and programs for public benefit.



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Dr. Mark Riley	Department Head & Museum Director
Dr. Roger Hoy	Director, Nebraska Tractor Test Lab & Friends President
John Hay	Associate Extension Educator
Lou Leviticus	Emeriti Faculty & Museum Curator
Don Edwards	Emeriti Faculty & Past-President of Larsen Museum Friends



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