



Hats and T-shirts \$15



Reproduction Signs \$12



Cards \$2



Volunteers & Friends Thanks

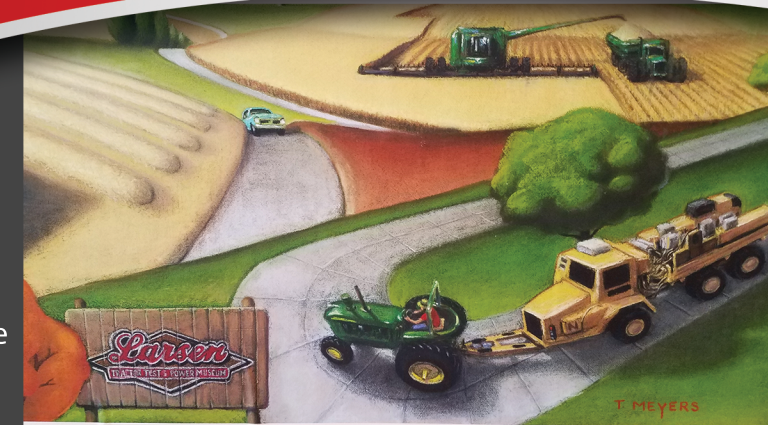
The Larsen Tractor Test & Museum Friends appreciate some new memberships and those of you who have renewed or will renew your membership. We've had several donations from our members through GIVE to Lincoln and our fundraising efforts. Thank you for your generosity!

And thank you, volunteers! Mark Nickolaus and Jerry Kohl have served the Museum since 1998; Joey Dowding since 2009; Don Edwards, in addition to serving as Treasurer, is here two days a week. Jim Banister helped us earlier this semester, and Ray Denton is our newest volunteer. We truly benefit from their knowledge and experience!



Museum Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 9AM - 4PM  
1st Saturdays: 10AM - 2PM  
East Campus, 35th & Fair  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68583  
GPS: 40.831969,-96.668722



this issue

- A Historic Allis C 1
- Tom Meyer's Mural Art 1
- Mural Completed 2
- Year End Giving 2
- Membership 3
- Social Media 3
- 20 Year Celebration 3
- Museum Store 4

Restoration Club Conserves Unique Allis C

The Restoration Club was given the opportunity to work with a unique tractor, an Allis Chalmers C that was used by the last homesteader under the federal Homestead Act of 1862. Alaskan homesteader Ken Deardorff, a veteran of Vietnam, filed the claim in 1974 and purchased the 1945 Allis C to clear stumps in order to farm the land.

Mark Engler, superintendent at Homestead National Monument describes the tractor as an American treasure. The involvement of the Larsen Museum staff and the Restoration Club have been critical to the effort to save the machine and tell its story.

It was lifted by helicopter in June from a roadless site in Alaska. Club advisor, and Friends Past President, Doug Koozer joined the group to help rescue the tractor. They also discovered a few implements, and the tractor still had chains on the rear tires.

The model is far from rare -- about 84,000 were produced made at the company's Wisconsin plant. Al Levitan, a National Parks Service conservator from West Virginia who is consulting with Homestead National Monument said the tractor brings the American homesteading story full circle, by bringing an artifact from the last homestead site to the first homestead site. Homestead Monument is located south of Beatrice at the site claimed by Daniel Freeman on Jan. 1, 1863.

Levitan provided the Restoration Club students a plan to conserve the tractor. He came to Nebraska and discussed it with them. Their work was documented by *Nebraska Farmer*, *Omaha World Herald*, and NET, among other media outlets. The club also built a frame with casters that was attached to the tractor for ease of mobility. On Nov. 20, it was unveiled at an event at Homestead Monument.



Courtesy David Hendee, Omaha World Herald



Courtesy Craig Chandler, Office of University Communications

**YEAR END GIVING!**  
Need a tax break?  
\$One in a \$Million

The Larsen Tractor Test Museum Friends is incorporated as a 501c3 organization and donations are tax deductible. If you send in a check for the year end, and date it for 2017, you will be provided with a letter thanking you and documenting the donation.

Something new: You can donate to the Friends through PayPal, if you have an account. Find us on PayPal by using the Museum email: [larsentractormuseum@unl.edu](mailto:larsentractormuseum@unl.edu); we'll get an email notification of your donation, which is then transferred to the Friends' account.

In the summer of 2016, we kicked off our \$One in a \$Million fund raising campaign, with a goal to raise a million dollars to sustain the Museum into the future. Since then, we've had both small and large donations, moving us gradually closer to the goal. A recent donor gave 100 shares of John Deere stock!

Thanks to our supporters!



Lincoln artist Tom Meyers was commissioned by the Friends to create a work of art that could become a mural for the children's area of Larsen Tractor Test & Power Museum. We wanted to be able to show the work tractors perform and include the history of tractor testing.

Meyers created a pastel drawing, on a 16" x 8" artist board. The original artwork is exhibited in the Museum's William Splinter Memorial Gallery. You can see other examples of Meyers work posted on his website: <https://www.tmeyersart.com>

The mural begins with the Minneapolis Ford tractor (not made by Henry Ford) abandoned in the field. It goes on to show a Rumley Oil Pull plowing. The Rumley was the tractor that inspired Wilmot Crozier to propose the Nebraska Tractor Test Law. It advertised it would pull a three-bottom plow, and Crozier successfully used a five-bottom plow with it, while his original Ford tractor had broken down on the way home. And neither the 1917 Ford he was given to replace it, nor the used Bull tractor he subsequently purchased, performed anywhere near the claims made in their advertising.

**Fall Open House Draws Hundreds, Includes Music**

Construction concluded, north of the Museum, so we held an open house Oct. 28. Turn out was terrific! An estimated 400 people enjoyed hay rack rides, tours, face painting, Hog Wild Barbecue, and performances by Pawnee Pickers, Matt Rivers Jellum, and Todd Rivers. We raised \$400+ from donations in our prize drawing, sold store items, and unveiled the mural. Guests were able to see the Allis C from Alaska and other Restoration Club projects and tour the Tractor Test Lab.

Meyers then showed a Farmall cultivating, an Allis Chalmers planting, and a New Holland/Ford bailing, and a harvest operation using modern John Deere equipment. The mural concludes with the image on page 1, showing the current Nebraska Tractor Test Laboratory track and test vehicle.

The art was scanned and printed onto a vinyl wallpaper. In October, it was installed on the half wall that divides the John Deere cab and kid's activities from the tractor display area and exhibits the collection of model tractors donated by Jerome Cox. It was unveiled at our fall open house.

Many thanks to the Ehlers Family and those who donated to GIVE to Lincoln to fund this project.



Matt Rivers-Jellum (left) and Todd Rivers perform at open house.



Pawnee Pickers

**Friends of the Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test & Power Museum**



**2018 Membership Renewal / Donation**

Mail form to:  
Friends of the Larsen Tractor Museum  
P.O. Box 830832  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0832

If you have questions concerning this form, contact the Larsen Tractor Museum at 402-472-8389 or Nebraska Tractor Test Laboratory at 402-472-2442.

|  |  |                            |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| <b>MEMBERSHIP LEVEL Check one</b>  |  | <br>Membership Total<br>\$ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Student - \$10   |  |                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Individual - \$25  |  |                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Family - \$35  |  |                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Affiliate Organization - \$250   |  |                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Life Membership - \$1,000   |  |                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to receive museum mailings electronically and be contacted via email.  |  |                            |
| Your donation is essential; the Larsen Museum relies entirely on private funding.  |  |                            |
| <b>DONATION LEVEL Check one</b>  |  | Donation Total<br>\$       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> \$ |  |                            |
| <b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>  |  | \$                         |
| Name: _____  |  |                            |
| Address: _____   |  |                            |
| City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____  |  |                            |
| Phone: _____   |  |                            |
| Email: _____   |  |                            |

**Thank you for your support!**

The Friends of the Larsen Tractor Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Monetary donations are tax deductible.

**20th Anniversary OPEN HOUSE of Larsen Tractor Test Museum Dedication**



**Sat., April 7th**

Details in next issue of Nuts & Bolts

While the building was declared a historic site for the American Society of Agricultural Engineers in 1980, the Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test & Power Museum wasn't dedicated as such until 1998. In 2018, we plan to celebrate the past 20 years of our existence. Many changes have taken place over the years, and we continue to improve and build upon the passion for and appreciation of our history by agricultural producers, engineers, and the public in general. We hope you'll join us!



**Museum Participates in Nebraska Power Farming Show**



The Nebraska Power Farming Show is the second largest indoor show of ag equipment in the nation. It was held at the Lancaster County Event Center the first week in December. We displayed the Allis Chalmers G in our booth, and a Farmall C that was donated to the Friends, which the Restoration Club students repaired to run, and that is being sold by the Friends so the funds can benefit the Museum. Contact us if you have an interest.

**"LIKE US" Social Networking**  
Our student workers are helping to get the word out and tell the story of the history of tractor testing and the Larsen Tractor Test Museum. They are posting on the facebook page "Tractor Tuesday," "Throwback Thursday," and "Fun Fact Friday." You're encouraged to "like" us on Facebook.



We also have a Twitter accounts for the Museum: @LTTMuseum, and we are on Instagram: @larsentractortest  
In 2018, look for more outreach through social networking. You can also review us on Yelp, Trip Advisor, and Google, so others know about this awesome visitor attraction.



Test # 834 Minneapolis-Moline G706 LPG 1963

[larsentractormuseum@unl.edu](mailto:larsentractormuseum@unl.edu)  
[tractormuseum.unl.edu](http://tractormuseum.unl.edu)

