Volunteer Needs & Friends

The Larsen Tractor Test & Power Museum Friends are seeking new and renewed memberships. Openings are available on the Friends Board, and the Executive Board is in need of someone to serve as Secretary. The Museum also needs individuals to be volunteer tour guides starting this fall. All you need is willingness to learn and a desire to interact with our guests. Hours are flexible.

Museum Hours:
Tuesday - Friday 9AM - 4PM
1st Saturdays: 10AM - 2PM
East Campus, 35th & Fair
Lincoln, Nebraska 68583
GPS: 40.831969, -96.668722
402.472.6389
tractor museum.unl.edu

Mission Statement:
To be the world renowned leader as steward of the history of advancement of agricultural tractor testing and power technology through the development of collections, exhibits, and programs for public benefit.

ANNUAL MEETING: Larsen Museum Friends
Aug. 9th

GIVE to Lincoln Donations Kick off Fundraiser

As a result of the May 26th GIVE to Lincoln event, the Larsen Tractor Test & Power Museum and Friends raised over $4,000.00 to kick off their $1 million fundraising campaign. The Friends hope to have one million people contribute so that they can insure the Museum will be sustainable into the future. Board member Jerry Kohl and his grandson John, volunteered for GIVE and manned our booth in Tower Square. The following list of donors contributed through the GIVE event, directly to the Friends, or by adding a donation to their membership renewal. One member joined at the Lifetime level. We also had a donation box at Camp Creek’s show. Thanks to Geng Bai, Janelle Bruning, Evan Curtis, Brian Geyer, David Finney, Bruce Johnson & Barbara Hoppe Johnson, Mitch Minarik, Patrick O’Hara, Santosh Pala: Ken Pohlman, Mark Riley, Brent Sampson, William Splinter family; Ken Von Bargen, and those who put their dollars in the box for our 501c3 Friends group.

Minneapolis-Moline Tractors at Camp Creek

Minneapolis-Moline was the featured tractor at Camp Creek Thresher’s annual show July 16-17 near Waverly, NE. They kindly offered us a booth space, and we trailed the Minneapolis-Moline RTU (advertising pictured right) and the Twin City KTA (from behind the Museum). Student Jethan Scheidler kept the booth covered along with volunteer Jerry Kohl and Museum Manager Julie Thomson. They spoke with many people that knew Lester Larsen and/or Bill Splinter, and encouraged those attending the event to visit the Larsen Museum and take in the many updated exhibits. The weather was surprisingly cooperative, and we hope to have running tractors at next year’s event.
The student workers at Larsen Tractor Test & Power Museum spent last semester on a variety of projects to improve and expand our displays. With the help of volunteers Don Edwards and Jerry Kohl, many areas were transformed.

The William Splinter Memorial Gallery that has been exhibiting the Craig Cassell drawings, now includes engine exhibits, tools, and cut-away antique tractor carburetors. The floor has been painted, and there’s an exhibit of Bill’s awards. The Gallery is a starting point for our tours of the Museum.

Toy tractors, donated by Jerome Cox, are displayed in the children’s area in a case built by board member Rodney Rohrer. The John Deere cab, where kids can play, was placed here with kid-sized tables and activities.

Doug Triplet, one of the Test Lab engineers, donated wood flooring to complete the display of the Moline Universal. And the students built a dirt floored barn exhibit for the Heider.

Students installed a big screen in the southeast room to show videos about tractor testing, our tractors, our history, and the Model T, which is now exhibited in that space. (Plans are in the works to further transform the area to focus on the agricultural history that includes the Model T.)

The biggest project was the Museum Store, funded by a generous donation in memory of volunteer and Friends member Larry Ehlers. A drop ceiling and new lighting and flooring were installed, walls were transformed into areas to display items for sale, the seed sorter became the cash register stand, and sales of hats, t-shirts, cards and prints, toy tractors, and artwork continue to grow.

The Museum is fortunate to have such great help from our students and our volunteers, who also provide tours, create signage, and keep us looking good. Mark Nickolaus has volunteered since 1998; Joey Dowding since 2003.

**Friends of the Larsen Tractor Test & Power Museum**

**Annual Meeting**

**Tues., Aug. 9th**

*6:00 - 8:00 p.m.*

Larsen Museum

beginning with heavy hors de ouerves, followed by a tour of Museum updates, annual business meeting, and dessert.

**RSVP:**

402-472-8389; jthomson2@unl.edu

**Passport Program & Scavenger Hunts Bring in Visitors**

Summer visitors are coming into the Museum as participants in Lincoln Visitors Bureau’s Be a Tourist Passport program. Those visiting at least 11 sites, where their passport is stamped, can participate in the prize drawing. Passport carriers can complete second chance drawing tickets at each site. We are also part of two local scavenger hunts. Raising Cane’s restaurants placed a jar with a cow stamp inside the tool box of the McCormick Deering tractor outside; patrons come here to find it and stamp their scavenger hunt card. Bryan Health’s Kids Club has a local scavenger hunt app that families can download. They’ve come to the Museum to find the green tractor that twice failed Wilmot Crozier (ultimately resulting in the passage of the test law) and enter their answer.

**You’re Invited!**

**Many Thanks!**

The Tim Hindman collection of 250+ items, including model tractors in all sizes and collectible barns, was donated by Tony, Amy, and Sam Hindman of Hays, Ne. Tony earned his Bachelor’s degree in Mechanized Systems Management, and his brother, Tim, held a Ph.D. in Ag Engineering from UNL.

**Library & Shop Items Donated**

Friend and former Tractor Test Board Chair, Dr. Ken Von Borgen, donated his files regarding 1980’s legislative decisions about the test law. Harold Borman donated several tractor books, among them Fordson and Ford and the Model T. Friend Jim Banister donated a set of jacks for the restoration shop.

**Nuts & Bolts**

**Volume 3**

**Issue 2**