Lance Todd Moves to Graphic Design Job

Lance Todd began as Manager of the Larsen Tractor Test & Power Museum in June 2012. The museum wasn’t branded; professional signage was needed; the space for exhibits was scattered; archives were deteriorating; and the Restoration Club was struggling.

Lance had a graphic design background; he created our logo, a brand that could be put on hats and shirts, used on our rack cards and in the custom-made booth he created to go to events and publicized the Larsen Museum. He connected to the Pure Nebraska TV show, where our brand often appears during their regular taping. He designed signage and the new look for Nuts & Bolts. His teaching degree helped him enliven the Club and bring in school groups, such as UNL’s Ruth Staples Lab.

Lance had a museum background. The first exhibit he built told the story of Wilmot Crozier and the tractors he bought that inspired the test law (right). It involved photographing a cornfield, gathering barn wood, bringing in dirt and corn stalks, and building a backdrop for the corn field wallpaper. Then he moved on to the first tractor tested, building a Waterloo Boy exhibit. Next came the barn wall, with an “in the weeds” space for tractors behind the barn and painted the logo as a barn ad; inside, a display -all and more tractors.

He continued to build, transforming the place and pointing it in a positive direction. He took everything from the archives to install archival, state-of-the-art shelving, and organized the files. He built the William Splinter Memorial Gallery.

In Oct. 2015, Lance decided to move to a job outside of UNL, as a graphic designer for a company that works with race car drivers (another of his passions). His contribution is much appreciated, and he will be greatly missed. We wish him the best.

Julie Thomson, who worked alongside Lance, in her job with the Lab and BSE Dept. was asked to step into Lance’s role part-time. She continues on the transformation path and has begun to partner with the Friends to raise funds that will sustain this work.

100 Years of Tractor Tests Will Be Celebrated in 2020

2020 will mark 100 years of tractor testing at the Nebraska Tractor Test Lab (NTTL). From test #1, the Waterloo Boy (pictued right) until today, there have been over 2200 tractors tested. NTTL is beginning to develop plans for the 100 year celebration. Dr. Roger Hoy, Director of NTTL, is assembling a mailing list of former employees, manufacturing reps, and Museum supporters. Contact us if you’d like your name on the list.

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

Annual Meeting

Tues., Aug. 9th

Details in July issue of Nuts & Bolts

Friends of Larsen Tractor Test Museum

2016 Membership Renewal / Donation

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL Check one

| Year Student | $10 | Year Individual | $25 |
| Year Family | $30 | Year Attraction Organization | $250 |

1 Life Membership | $1,000
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.

DONATION LEVEL Check one

| Amount | $100 | $500 | $250 | $50 | $ |

TOTAL ENCLOSED $

Thank you for your support!

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

Left: John Saha as a grad student; from UNL, he went straight to Detroit to join Ford’s tractor division. Later, he moved down the block to the Chrysler Music Division (contractor for NAA and D&D) to work on a guidance systems team for a then-feeding Space Race.

Ftr right: Brent Sampson advises Ray Beekman in the test car utilized by Zer Larsen and Lou Levitticus.

Dr. Lou Levitticus: His Legacy of Work & Volunteering

Dr. Louis I. Levitticus, Engineer-in-Charge of the Test Lab 1976-1998, a founder of the Friends, Museum Curator 1996-2015, passed away Dec. 12, 2015 at age 84. Lou tested 565+ tractors, moved the Lab to its current location, and fought to save its history. He traveled the world. As a Holocaust survivor, Lou wrote a book about his life during WWII in The Netherlands, a story he shared by speaking to community groups. He is greatly missed.
Volunteer Opportunities

The Larsen Tractor Test & Power Museum is seeking individuals who would like to be volunteer tour guides this fall. All you need is willingness to learn and a desire to interact with our guests. Hours are flexible during the week. Please contact us for information about volunteering.

Join us and become part of something BIG.

Museum Hours:
Tuesday - Friday 9AM - 4PM
1st Saturday each month: 10AM - 2PM
Closed:
Sundays, Mondays & University Holidays

Donations Get Things Done

The Larsen Tractor Test & Power Museum and Friends have been the fortunate recipients of several recent donations that have allowed us to build the Museum and its programs.

Roy Yanigida, former John Deere dealer and Friends member, made a generous donation to support the Restoration Club so they could take a field trip to the John Deere Product Engineering Center and Museum in Iowa. The group traveled to Waterloo and enjoyed several tours. (Photos above and right.) Thanks, Roy!

A big thanks to the Larry Ehlers family for their donations in Larry’s memory to update the Museum Store. He served as a volunteer and an active member of the Friends until 2014. We were able to replace cracked windows, have a neon sign made (right), add inventory, and renovate the store space.

Memorial donations were received by the John Sahs family. John worked for Lester Larsen as a graduate student at the Test Lab. He earned an M.S. in Ag. Engineering in 1952. Nebraska Test Lab Engineer Brent Sampson generously donated in memory of former Chief Engineer, Dr. Lou Levitićus (see pg. 3).

Todd Moves to New Job (article inside)