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Minnesota Valley

Antique Farm Power & Machinery Association



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**OCTOBER 2020**

<http://www.heritagehill.us>

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**PRESIDENTIAL STATE OF THE HILL ADDRESS:**

Harvest is in full swing. It is amazing the difference a year, or two, makes. The last few years have been too wet resulting in extended harvest delays; this year harvest conditions are optimal and arriving even a bit early. The summer was a bit too hot but as it turns out, the heat units were welcome. Frost came early this September but most of the crops were matured and ready.

Disappointingly, the freeze was not intense enough to kill the soybeans. It just burned the top of the plant leaving the rest of the plant unscathed. What looked like a two-week early soybean harvest turned into an average, to slightly ahead of average starting date. Interestingly the West coast wild fires took its toll on the crop maturity in and around Minnesota. There was plenty of heat and cloudless September days, but due to the smoke and haze in the air from Canadian wildfires and fires out West, crop maturity and drying was slowed. My soybeans fields looked fit for harvest for several days but when looking at the plants there were still many green pods and yellow stems. I decided to wait while many other producers started harvest. As to the best time to start the annual harvest, well every producer has their own threshold. Again, as compared to the last three years, the lack of mud has been a blessing. There are always spots in the field that seem to remain wet so caution cannot be tossed to the wind. Getting fall tillage completed with good soil conditions is very important in preparing for next year.

While looking through some of my photo albums, I was struck by the difference in harvest equipment from 50 years ago. Included to the right is a picture of me driving a 1964 model 303 International combine when I was about 8 years old. The other photograph found at the end of this newsletter is of a CaseIH 7230 that I currently operate. The 303 had approximately 65 horsepower



where the 7230 was equipped with a 375-horsepower engine....and that being one of the smaller machines in use today. Who would have dreamt this not so many years ago? In recent weeks grain commodity prices have improved due to reduced yields from the Iowa Derecho, drought conditions in other areas, along with a recent strong export demand. After experiencing extremely low commodity prices this past summer, it is amazing how most producers become excited about prices that are, at best, break even. I understand that mentality as, for the most part, instead of looking at sizeable losses, most farmers should now be able to break even if they can market their grain properly.

The soybean crop at Heritage Hill and on the county land was good. The soybeans produced will help offset revenue losses from the 2020 Threshing Show cancellation. Thank you to the farming committee for keeping this Heritage Hill activity a success.

Soon winter will be upon us, the ground will once again freeze and the snow will fall. Weather forecasts are all over the board from cold and snowy to warm and dry. By the end of March, we will then know who was right!

The Board of Directors will continue to monitor the Center for Disease Control and the Minnesota Department of Health in deciding when to resume membership meetings. Meanwhile, the board will do its best to keep the membership informed of Heritage Hill activities, and board discussions. We are all looking forward to the time when we can all meet again for discussion and socialization. Elections are this month. Please cast your vote. The more participation we have, the better the membership's voice is heard.

*Thanks, Chip Grube, President*

## MEETING NOTICES & COMING EVENTS

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Membership Meeting &amp; Family Picnic</b>             | Tuesday, September 15, 2020.                     |
| <b>CANCELLED DUE TO PHYSICAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS.</b> |  |
| <b>Board Meeting</b>                                      | Sunday, November 1, 2020 6:00 pm @ Heritage Hill |
| <b>Heritage Days 2021</b>                                 | June 18 - 19, 2021                               |
| <b>Christmas Party</b>                                    | Saturday, December 12                            |

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES: September 22, 2020 – Grant Schmeig, Secretary

COVID-19 Cancellation

## DIRECTOR MEETING MINUTES: October 5, 2020 – Robert Schultz, Acting Secretary

President Grube called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, Sunday, October 4, 2020 in the Heritage Hill Threshers Kitchen.

Grube led the pledge of allegiance.

Board Members present: Grube, Schmieg, Ashling, Thissen, Schultz, Johnson, Finn, Absent: Bergquist, Coon, Kleene.

Secretary Report: Schmieg read the August 31, 2020 Secretaries report. MSP Schultz/Ashling to approve the report.

No treasurers report was available.

- **Raffle Tickets:** Board will wait until January to discuss when to start selling tickets again.
- **Elections:** Ballots will be available with October Newsletters.
- **Steam Engines for 2021:** 3-4 options for the show, mostly the same options available last year.
- **Pulling Skids:** Need to contract a pulling skid for the 2021 show.
- **Friday Night Show Activities:** Attempt to plan the same activities as last year.
- **Holtan Building:** Expansion plans delayed until May, need to first determine the future of the 2021 Threshing Show.
- **Loading Dock:** Have not picked a perfect location for the loading dock yet. It still needs to be moved.
- **Construction Equipment:** Project progressing as time permits.
- **Swap Meet:** Discussed moving swap meet adjacent to Barnaal Building and camping up by the kitchen?
- **People Movers:** Discuss next spring for designated people mover stops around the grounds.
- **John Deere 55 Combine:** Maybe not proceed with playground plans. Ashling has a lead on playground equipment from the City of Litchfield.
- **Moonshine Still:** Permit is in the process to legally have the still on the grounds.
- **Dump Truck:** Unit is no longer available as a donation.
- **Bernice Olean Donation:** Lannie Ashling reviewed the proposed donation and determined it was not a fit for HH.
- **HH Email:** Schmieg set up a new email for Heritage Hill. It is a general email that numerous people will be able to access. This will assist with communication between spectators and membership.
- **Soybean Harvest:** Yield was above average for relative to the productivity potential.
- **Bleachers:** Parker Thissen, Boy Scouts of America member, volunteered to replace the bleacher boards. MSP Ashling/Finn Thissen to proceed with the project and purchase supplies as needed.
- **Plow Day:** Halloween plow day approved by the farming committee. Looking to advertise locally to increase attendance.
- **CARES ACT Grant:** HH received a \$5,000 grant.
- **House Basement:** Need to utilize the empty house basement space.
- **Ashling Bridge:** Kyle Ashling is applying for a grant from the state of MN to restore his walking bridge. If received it will be on display at HH.
- **Next meeting:** November 1, 2020.





## Board of Director Candidate Biographies

### GLEN COON

Glen Coon is a long-time member of Heritage Hill. He previously served on the Board of Directors in the early 2000s. He first became interested in MVAFPMA in the 1990s when his late father-in-law, Duane Grube, joined the Association. Glen is employed at Midwest Truck Parts, Inc., Dawson, Minnesota as a truck mechanic. In his spare time, he enjoys ATV riding, camping, fishing and kayaking. Glen and his wife, Jackie, have been married for 37 years and live just west of Montevideo. They have two children, Stephen who is a former Heritage Hill board member and Ashley who is a past Threshing Show queen. Ashley and her husband, Alex, have two children, John and Adelynn, who bring Grandpa and Grandma so much joy.

### CHANTEL HAMANN

Hello! I am Chantel Hamann from Moorhead, MN. Ever since I was a little girl, I have gone to antique tractor shows with my family. My dad and I have about 50 antique stationary gas engines and show at a few shows, including Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion and Heritage Hill. I went to North Dakota State College of Science, Wahpeton, ND for small engine repair. I am currently a Small Engine Mechanic at S and S Landscaping in Fargo, ND. I have past board experience from when I was President of SkillsUSA North Dakota while I was in college. I enjoy attending and participating in antique shows and it always delights me to see younger generations so interested in history. We need that interest to keep these shows alive and growing. I would love to have the opportunity to serve on the board for Heritage Hill and help the show continue to grow!



ALEX LAMKIN – Biography not available.

### GRANT SCHMIEG

Grant Schmieg is a lifetime member of Heritage Hill and currently the Secretary on the board. He is willing to run for Heritage Hill President because he thoroughly enjoys working with members, planning events and helping with other various organizational matters. Schmieg lives in Madison, SD but that does not stop him from frequently volunteering, attending show ground activities many weekends throughout the year, working on gas engines and multiple other projects. Grant is employed by Mustang Seeds, which is also based out of Madison, as a Precision Ag Specialist. In his spare time, you can find Grant working on old engines or tractors, or smoking meat. Schmieg has showed huge interest in the Heritage Hill over the past two years, and is willing help make Heritage Hill an increasingly successful organization.

## EXTRA: Silage Processing

Using the same technique as the process for making sauerkraut, green fodder was preserved for animals in parts of Germany since the start of the 1800's. This gained the attention of a French agriculturist, Auguste Goffart of Sologne, near Orléans, who published a book in 1877 which described the experiences of preserving green crops in silos. Goffart's experience attracted considerable attention. The conditions of dairy farming in the early United States suited the ensiling of green corn fodder, and was soon adopted by New England farmers. Francis Morris of Maryland prepared the first silage produced in America in 1876. The favorable results obtained in the United States led to the introduction of the system in the United Kingdom, where Thomas Kirby first introduced the process for British dairy herds. The modern silage preserved with acid and by preventing contact with air was invented by a Finnish academic and professor of chemistry Artturi Ilmari Virtanen. Virtanen was awarded 1945 Nobel prize in chemistry "for his research and inventions in agricultural and nutrition chemistry, especially for his fodder preservation method", practically



inventing modern silage. European silos were made of masonry stone either above or below ground, but much of the silage would spoil due to the flow of air and oxygen. Above ground taller silos created better compaction and were soon adapted. In early years in the United States structures were typically constructed of wooden cylinders to 35 or 40 feet in depth. Later as the silos heights increased, the structures were constructed using concrete and later glass lined steel. In the early days of mechanized agriculture, stalks were cut and collected manually using a knife and horse drawn wagon, and fed into a stationary machine called a "silo filler" that chopped the stalks and blew them up a narrow tube to the top of a tower silo. Advance mechanization improved the silage chopping in the fields. Silage can be dangerous. Many lives have been lost by dangerous gases produced in the fermentation stage. Precautionary measures are very necessary when filling and maintain silos. The ensiling process produces "silo gas" during the early stages of the fermentation process. Silage gas contains nitric oxide, which will react with oxygen in the air to form nitrogen dioxide, which is toxic. Lack of oxygen inside the silo can cause asphyxiation. Molds that grow when air reaches cured silage can cause organic dust toxic syndrome. Collapsing silage from large bunker silos has caused deaths. There is always a risk of death or injury from the silage processing equipment. Silage itself poses no special danger. Forage harvesters collect and chop the plant material, and deposit it in trucks or wagons. These forage harvesters can be either tractor-drawn or self-propelled. Harvesters blow the chaff into the wagon through a chute at the rear or side of the machine. Chaff may also be emptied into a bagger, which puts the silage into a large plastic bag that is laid out on the ground. In North America, Australia, northwestern Europe, and New Zealand it is common for silage to be placed in large heaps on the ground, rolled by tractor to push out the air, then covered with plastic sheets that are held down by used tires or tire ring walls. In New Zealand and Northern Europe, 'bunkers' made of concrete or old wooden railway ties and built into the side of a bank are sometimes used. The chopped grass can then be dumped in at the top, to be drawn from the bottom in winter. This requires considerable effort to compress the stack in the silo to cure it properly. Again, the pit is covered with plastic sheet and weighed down with tires.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2020**

**Financial Statement: September 1, 2020**

| <u>Internal Accounts</u> |                | <u>Depository Accounts</u> |                                       |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| \$12,178.53              | General Fund   | \$1,514.33                 | Citizens Alliance Bank - Checking     |
| \$4,513.00               | Chapel Fund    | \$38,606.75                | CAB - Preferred Money Market          |
| \$13,429.55              | Farming Fund   | \$0.00                     | CAB - Certificate of Deposit          |
| \$10,000.00              | Insurance Fund | <b>\$40,121.08</b>         | <b>TOTAL</b>                          |
| <b>\$40,121.08</b>       | <b>TOTAL</b>   |                            |                                       |
|                          |                | \$0.00                     | Loan Balance - Citizens Alliance Bank |

**Operating Statement**

|                    |                                   |                     |                                    |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>\$40,121.08</b> | <b>Balance: September 1, 2020</b> |                     |                                    |
|                    | <u>RECEIPTS</u>                   |                     | <u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>               |
|                    | \$50.00 Camping                   | (\$93.80)           | Electricity                        |
|                    | \$5,000.00 CARES ACT Grant        | (\$912.00)          | Hail Insurance Premium             |
|                    | \$4.76 Interest                   | <b>(\$1,005.80)</b> | <b>TOTAL</b>                       |
|                    | \$24,906.16 Soybeans              |                     |                                    |
|                    | <b>\$29,960.92</b> TOTAL          | <b>\$69,076.20</b>  | <b>Balance: September 30, 2020</b> |

**Financial Statement: September 30, 2020**

| <u>Internal Accounts</u> |                | <u>Depository Accounts</u> |                                       |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| \$34,563.20              | General Fund   | \$30,464.69                | Citizens Alliance Bank - Checking     |
| \$4,513.00               | Chapel Fund    | \$38,611.51                | CAB - Preferred Money Market          |
| \$20,000.00              | Farming Fund   | \$0.00                     | CAB - Certificate of Deposit          |
| \$10,000.00              | Insurance Fund | <b>\$69,076.20</b>         | <b>TOTAL</b>                          |
| <b>\$69,076.20</b>       | <b>TOTAL</b>   |                            |                                       |
|                          |                | \$0.00                     | Loan Balance - Citizens Alliance Bank |

**Leslie K. Bergquist, Treasurer**