

**President**

Duane Grube, Jr.  
320-815-5791

**Vice-**

**President**

Robert Schultz  
320-444-4861

**Secretary**

Grant Schmieg  
605-291-9551

**Treasurer**

Leslie Bergquist  
320-226-7878



Minnesota Valley



*Antique Farm Power & Machinery Association*

5030 Twentieth Avenue Southwest

Post Office Box 226

Montevideo, MN 56265

**SEPTEMBER 2020**

<http://www.heritagehill.us>

<https://www.facebook.com/heritagehillshow>

**Directors**

Kyle Ashling  
320-361-0599

Stephen Coon  
320-841-2211

Beth Finn  
320-226-6090

Dustin Johnson  
320-226-1947

Scott Thissen  
320-444-3861

**Ex-Officio**

Gerald Kleene  
320-894-9149

**PRESIDENTIAL STATE OF THE HILL ADDRESS:**

Fall is definitely near. Regardless of what the "official" records say, it seems the Appleton area growing season has been a much warmer and drier summer than average. 2012 was probably the last year comparable to 2020.

The older I become the more I reminisce. I remember the drought years and the flood years especially. 1976 was the first severe drought that I experienced. With the extreme air temperatures and lack of air conditioning, my folks moved the kitchen table and chairs to the basement for some relief from the heat. By August the ground temperature rose to the point where the basement was no longer a refuge from the conditions. There are memories of many nights lying on top of the bed covers in a pool of sweat TRYING to sleep, usually without success. Even milking cows was a huge challenge. It was so hot anyway and to kneel between those cows was like kneeling into an oven. Sprinklers were run on the hogs every day. Irrigation systems had not yet been installed so our crops were severely damaged. The corn production on the home farm, and most of the corn on another rented farm was poor. That corn crop was chopped for silage. The corn stubble was so sparse that the following spring the field was prepared without doing any primary tillage....but somehow we survived that drought year!

1988 is another year I will never forget. That year seemed even warmer than 1976. From May until late August, 21 days temperatures rose to over 100°F; two of those days the temperature officially reached 110°F or more. In the spring it was difficult for seeds to germinate due to the extreme dry soils. The wheat crop yield was decent but not great, but the corn and soybean yields were disastrous. One July day I had been out square baling straw and thought it was excessively hot. While driving into the farmyard past the pump house, the thermometer indicated 117°F. We had the benefit of a bale accumulator and bale fork so as much straw as possible was loaded during the heat of the day, then unloaded into the hay mow during early morning hours, when the hay mow temperatures were the coolest. The unloading started around 4:30 or 5:00 am, finishing up around 8:00 am. By then the ambient air temperatures had already rose to the mid or upper eighties. By 1988 the irrigators had been installed. Unfortunately, due to the extreme heat, the irrigation systems were unable to keep up with the moisture demands. We had an issue with the corn under irrigation, located on the home farm in a band around the side hillsides at certain elevations as it turned white in July. Several agronomists and extension agents examined the damage, it was a condition we had not seen before. It was determined that the extreme temperatures at that elevation literally scorched or baked the corn plant.....and, again, somehow, we survived another drought year!

Also, in 1988, my wife Reba and I were married. In March we became engaged so then the wedding date needed to be decided. Reba laughs to this day regarding my initial reaction and about my priorities. Grabbing my calendar, I outlined probable wedding dates, working around planting season, haying, chemical applications, cultivation, wheat harvest, and straw baling. So August 20 was a date that I thought I could make work. Despite the pending drought, the wedding day was "relatively" cool. Every day leading up to the wedding the temperatures were in the 100's. When the big day arrived, it was only 93°F ....and no air conditioning in the



church. I was sweating for more than one reason! Our honeymoon included a trip to Yellowstone National Park, which, as many of you may remember, much of the park was under siege by uncontrolled wild fires. We traveled as far as Red Lodge, Montana, and stayed there for three days as the park was closed. The hotel was nice, built like small apartments, a grill on the deck, a fireplace, maids that even washed dishes.....pretty much all the comforts of home! The hotel gave us a good deal on the additional night's stays. Due to the fires, the entire town was basically vacant, so the additional business was welcomed. We walked Main Street visiting with all the store owners as they were bored to tears. It was amazing how many folks in the Red Lodge area had roots back to Minnesota. All reports indicated that the Yellowstone National Park gates were soon to open, and that became true. Fortunately, we were able to drive through the park but the visibility was very poor due to the lingering smoke. It was comparable to dense morning fog. On occasions, when we were able to peer through the smoke, the sun looked like a dim round red ball. As we headed to West Yellowstone, there were fire trucks lining the highway and we could see flames coming over the ridge. The fire was a frightening experience but at the same time we were witnessing a very historic event. Post-fire there were many media reports regarding the forest recovery timeline. The reports were wrong. Fires are naturally occurring events important to the ecology of a forest. Within a year, new vegetation had emerged including new pine tree growth. Within 10 to 15 years, the forest was once again lush, and very little evidence of the raging forest fire remained. After arriving back home from that trip, slowly but surely the rainfall resumed, the drought had broken. The precipitation was too late to do any good for the 1988 crop production, but at least there was moisture for fall tillage.



While the 2018 and 2019 growing seasons had been wet, they were a cake walk compared to 1993. That growing season started well as most of the crop was planted before the rains started. By late June, the fields were inundated. My father had already suffered two of his three heart attacks that summer, so I was attempting to keep both farms operating by myself. There was a significant amount of herbicide that could not be applied as the field conditions didn't allow. Same goes for cultivating. In one instance, I was trying to put on anhydrous ammonia with our Allis-Chalmers One-Ninety and managed to get stuck. My other tractor was 10 miles away. The only person available to help was a 12-year-old boy, so off we went to get the tractor. I taught the young man how to drive the pickup and we headed for home. His mother later asked her son how he could see to drive, to which he responded, "Well, sometimes I looked over the steering wheel and sometimes I looked under." His mother was less than thrilled that I had him drive, but he did fine and we managed to get back to the farm safely. After reaching to the field with the pull tractor, and hooking to the stuck tractor, the clouds opened wide. We managed to get the tractor unstuck. By the time we neared the field edge, there was water running down the corn rows. That ended the nitrogen application by ground rig. The remaining nitrogen was applied via an airplane, which required loading the plane on the ground in close proximity to the field. The Sheriff was not real wild about landing airplanes on the county road, but we proceeded to do what was necessary. When the plane had emptied and needed to land, we would block traffic from the temporary landing strip. It amazed me, even though I was standing in the road flagging people down, there were people who still tried to drive past me. Then on Independence Day as my father was recovering at home, another gully washer arrived. This storm included heavy hail. Ice piled up on the deck like a snow cone. The hail damaged several hundred crop acres. Fortunately, the rains diminished in September resulting in a fairly decent harvest season.

Another memorable weather event occurred in about 1995 – a flood in biblical proportions. It was late July and soils were extremely dry. There were storms forecasted in the area for that evening. About 8pm the precipitation started, not just a little rain, but it poured, like out of a garden hose. The rain continued on and on and on and on. I would check the rain gauge every hour or so throughout the night, measuring inches per hour. When walking out to look at the gauge, the grass had water standing level full, as the water could not run away fast enough. There was a weather station located within 3 miles of the farm. When the dust (water?) settled, the station reported nearly 14.5" within about a 36-hour period. Roads and fields were flooded like we had never seen before.

The springs of 1997 and 2001 also had record setting floods. Being on the township board much time was spent with my father closing township roads. I remember driving 36 miles to close a road that was 5 miles away. Many hours were also spent helping area towns sandbag. Weather conditions improved and the crops were planted in a timely manner. Those were much better cropping seasons than 1993.

Thank you for allowing me to share memories with you. I hope you enjoy reading these musings as much as I enjoy sharing.

***Until next time, Chip Grube, President***



## MEETING NOTICES & COMING EVENTS

<b>Membership Meeting</b>	Tuesday, September 15, 2020.
<b>CANCELLED DUE TO PHYSICAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS.</b>	
<b>Board Meeting</b>	Sunday, October 5, 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: August 18, 2020 – Grant Schmeig, Secretary

COVID-19 Cancellation

## DIRECTOR MEETING MINUTES: August 31, 2020 – Robert Schultz, Acting Secretary

President Grube called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, Sunday, August 30, 2020 in the Heritage Hill Threshers' Kitchen. Grube led the pledge of allegiance.

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

Schmeig read the August 3, 2020 Directors' Meeting minutes. M/S/P Bergquist/Thissen to approve the minutes.

No Treasurer's Report was available.

- **Membership Meetings:** Meetings will continue to be canceled until further notice due to COVID-19 concerns.
- **Elections:** There will be no online voting - mail in ballots, only. Members who receive emailed October newsletters will need to print the ballot. All ballots will need to be mailed per instructions in the October 2020 newsletter. Candidate biographies will be included in October newsletter.
- **Tractor Pull:** A pulling skid service is needed for the 2020 Threshing Show.
- **Website:** Connie has made updates to the website. Members are encouraged review the Heritage Hill website for accuracy and content. Constructive comments are welcome.
- **Email:** Schmieig agreed to arrange for a dedicated Heritage Hill email address. Ashling, Schmieig, and Johnson monitor email and respond in a timely manner. MSP Bergquist/Ashling approve a new email address.
- **James Roe:** A Heritage Hill member is needed to assume the prior responsibilities of James Roe. A member who resides in close proximity to the site would be best.
- **Bleachers:** Seating boards on a multiple number of bleachers need to be replaced due to deterioration. Schmieig will inventory the bleachers that are in need of repair and a quote will be needed on the material cost.
- **Adjournment:** MSP Bergquist/Thissen to adjourn.

## EXTRA: Tractor Salvage Business

Peter Engen had a small dairy farm in central North Dakota, near Anamoose, in northern Sheridan County. One day Engen decided it was time to trade off his trusty McCormick Deering WD-9. **“They wouldn't give me nothing for it!”** said Pete. So, he took his tractor home and sold the parts to other farmers around the area, as he kept up his farming and dairy business. Engen soon found out that he could make more money selling parts off tractors than he could by selling the used tractors whole, and that is when his salvage business escalated. Engen



began buying old tractors and selling the parts, but he did not stop at tractors, as he began buying combines, drills, disks, cultivators, augers, all types of farm machinery.

Within a few years Engen sold his cattle and started taking machinery in his barn and making rows of machinery in the cattle pastures. Enjoying the new business as it developed, Engen worked day and night buying and hauling old machinery from other farms. A few neighbors have admitted to thinking Pete had gone crazy, hauling machinery till late night hours. Engen knew what he was doing and it was successful.

Pete Engen's wife Delilah was the bookkeeper, answered telephones and assumed the role as general office manager. Delilah performed all these tasks initially without the aid of the computers which since has been installed and integrated into the business. Pete concentrated his efforts, buying equipment and sell parts, and servicing the needs of his customers. At the same time machinery was continuously disassembled to keep the parts inventory in check. Pete's Tractor Salvage continues to be a rapidly growing business serving rural North Dakota communities. The business facilities include five pole barn sheds located on the Engen land. One building stores engine blocks and completely assembled engines ready to run. The second shed houses used and brand-new tractor and implement tires, along with a few parts bins and complete working tractors. A third building is known as the shop where the tractors are dismantled. The fourth pole shed stores the majority of the parts bins and also contains the office. The fifth building is the Pete Engen personal garage and showcase building, known by friends and family as the "Toy Shed," where Engen stores his antique cars, and antique tractor collection.

This growing machinery salvage business currently has five full-time employees and two part-time employees. Pete's Tractor Salvage sells used parts and ships them anywhere around the world. Pete's Tractor Salvage, Inc. is located at 2163 Fifteenth Avenue Northeast, Anamoose, North Dakota 58710 and can be contacted at 701-465-3274.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: August 2020**

**Financial Statement: August 1, 2020**

<u>Internal Accounts</u>		<u>Depository Accounts</u>	
12,814.58	General Fund	\$2,155.30	Citizens Alliance Bank - Checking
4,513.00	Chapel Fund	\$38,601.83	CAB - Preferred Money Market
13,429.55	Farming Fund	\$0.00	CAB - Certificate of Deposit
10,000.00	Insurance Fund	<b>\$40,757.13</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>\$40,757.13</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		
		\$0.00	Loan Balance - Citizens Alliance Bank

**Operating Statement**

<b>\$40,757.13</b>	<b>Balance: August 1, 2020</b>		
	<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>
	\$55.00	Check 3853 Cancelation	(\$441.74)
	\$4.92	Interest	(\$96.23)
	<b>\$59.92</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	(\$158.00)
			<b>(\$695.97)</b>
<b>\$40,121.08</b>	<b>Balance: August 31, 2020</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>

**Financial Statement: August 31, 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

**Leslie K. Bergquist, Treasurer**