

Hayloft News



33rd Annual Show

Menno Pioneer Heritage Association
September 21 & 22 2019

May 2019 Spring Update

This year will be a sea of gray as our featured tractor and equipment are Ford and Fordson. The featured vehicles are made by Ford. Our feature engines are built by Hercules including Hercules, Economy, Thermoil, and Jaeger. As always all makes and displays are welcome!

Win a Ford Tractor!

The Ford tractor raffle is made possible by donation of a Ford 9N serial # 9N 5924T from Elton Schoenwald of Marion Well Drilling. The drawing will be on Sunday of the Power Show.

Tickets are \$5.00 a piece or 5 for \$20 Great for birthday gifts!

Checks can be mailed to MPHA, PO Box 452, Menno SD 57045 please include the contact information.

The tractor can currently be seen in person at Mettler Fertilizer in Freeman SD. The tractor will be moved around this summer with the location updated on the MPHA website.



Volunteering

Still helping when he can, Kleo has retired as our grounds maintenance worker and coordinator. Thank you, Kleo, for your many years of service.

This means we need a volunteer to coordinate and help maintain the show grounds. Responsibilities include mowing, cleaning for rentals, and small repairs. If you are retired or just find yourself with free time please consider being the grounds maintenance worker and coordinator for MPHA.

Projects for Volunteers also check Website

Thank you for volunteering! The following is a list of things volunteers can do to help keep our grounds looking good. Also if you see something that needs attention please inform us. Keys for volunteers can be picked up and returned at Mettler Implement. Fuel for the mowers will be in the gas engine building. Paint and supplies will be in the Registration building. Special work days will be posted online.

- **Help mow and trim Thursday afternoons or Saturdays if no rentals** (Come try out our newer mower or use one of the older ones!!)
- Clean Barn for Rentals dates on website
- Replacing the chinking on the Log Cabin
- Painting
 - Outhouse by Craft building
 - South door on the Saw Mill building
 - Picnic Tables
 - New Board on the west side of Depot
 - Door on the Granary and wood boards
 - Red Bench by the silo
 - Trim and doors on Bathroom by Barn
 - Door on Farm Emporium Building
 - Lean to on the log cabin
 - Door Frame on Farm emporium building
- Fix window on the east peak of log cabin
- Retrieve bridge plank and relay bridge planks
- Clean out bird poop from Church steeple
- Enclose church steeple with solid panels to replace louvers

Projects continued:

- Clean grass and weeds off gates by creek
- Put garage building on a foundation



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Future Carousel Attraction

The Menno Pioneer Power Show is pending an addition of a Carousel House and 30-foot Theel Carousel.

The carousel is a Theel Company ride that is circa 1950. Theel and Parker both used the same drive-unit but each had unique ride figures and differed in some of the mounting.

This ride is quite similar to what the older generation would have ridden on as children at a county fair or town celebration.

In the winter of 2010 Dave and Bubbles Mensch began a search for a carnival ride that would complement the children's entertainment already provided by the show. This search led to an eBay listing for a Theel Carousel with 18 aluminum horses. The Carousel was owned by Jerry Lemke of Oak Creek, Ws. (Just south of Milwaukee) Jerry's father operated a small amusement company for many years in that area and operated the rides at a company picnic or a church bizarre. Jerry worked with his father for many years and acquired the rides upon his father's death. Due to rezoning, Jerry had to liquidate the ride inventory. The carousel was one of the last things to sell.



Dave and Bubbles managed to strike a deal with Jerry and traveled to Milwaukee in April of 2010. Our friend, Bernie Fisk traveled with us to help in the process. The center drive of the carousel was mounted on tandem axels and could be towed behind the pickup. The rest of the ride was loaded into a rental truck for the trip back to Dave's farm.

Once home we took stock of what we had: 18 aluminum horses with many layers of old paint, some with cracks and broken legs and missing hoofs; Broken and badly warren sweeps and decking; A main drive unit that Jerry said did not work properly; A pile of support rods that were so bent it

looked like a plate of spaghetti; No bench seats for adults; The ride scenery was deemed unusable.

Jerry indicated that we were buying the horses and getting the ride free. Dave later discovered a bearing that was improperly repaired and the main cause of the ride not working properly.

We began sandblasting and more sandblasting and we have still more sandblasting. It seems that instead of one part there were either 12 or 24 pieces of the same part. Kleo Steffen and Reno Mettler made new decking sections patterned from an original. New sweeps were made. Maggett Machine of Matlock, Ia. did machine work and welding to restore the main drive unit. Mike Walter welded the aluminum horses. Although repairs are not complete and much painting remains, it is expected the ride will be complete for the 2020 show.

The ride is electric but future-plans include steam power to power the ride during the show. The 18 horses will occupy 9 of the 12 sections of the carousel. Two sections will have adult chariots (bench seating) and the remaining section is intended for handicap access. Dave and Bubbles want everyone to have access to the ride. The carousel is being restored by the Mensch Family and all labor is being donated.

The Carousel House To assure long life and minimal maintenance of the ride, Dave and Bubbles have proposed a carousel house to permanently store the exhibit. Current plans are to build a decagon (10 sided) structure that will measure 42 feet in diameter and have a 10-foot side wall. The building will be free span with 5-foot overhangs to provide protection for the sidewalls and provide shade for people waiting in line or watching the ride. The perimeter walls will provide a barrier between the ride and observers. Roll up doors will provide visual access to the ride. The carousel house will be located at the current granary site west of the Farm Emporium and construction to start in 2019.

Funding The Menno Pioneer Heritage Association is currently seeking donations to cover the material expenses of the carousel and funding for the construction of the carousel house. Anyone or organization donating \$ 100 or more to the project will be eligible for a membership in the Menno Pioneer Heritage Assoc. A donor of \$1000 or more will have their name permanently displayed in the carousel house. The project cost will likely exceed \$50,000 so we will definitely need some help to make this project a reality. This seems like a lot of money but as Dave put it, we only need 50 people to give \$1000 to reach the goal. The fund raising will continue until the goal is met hopefully by the spring of 2020. During the 2018 show nearly \$ 8000 was raised for this project and currently the total raised is over \$15,000. We consider this a great start towards our goal. Thank you to everyone who donated to the project and we look forward to hearing from more of you!