

# POWER FROM THE PAST

EDGE&TA Branch 240

Nov. 2020—Jan. 2021

## Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events (All area codes are 520 unless noted)

**December 5:** Benson, Christmas Dinner, Board Meeting, parade, **NOON**, Senior Center, 705 W. Union Street. **RSVP by November 20** to Liz Amatulli at [lizamatulli@gmail.com](mailto:lizamatulli@gmail.com) or 234-6803. **Only those who RSVP will have plates available.** The member's cost of the dinner is to bring at least 2 items of non-perishable food for the Benson Food Pantry. Assembly for the parade is 4:30 with the starting time of 6 p.m. Christmas Fantasy is the theme.

**January 4:** Benson, Board Meeting, 6 p.m. Peace in the Valley Lutheran Church, 551 S. J Six Ranch Road

**January 15-16:** Wellton Park, 9-4 daily; Sheffield is featured engine. 602-568-8155. Take I-8 Exit 30 (Wellton). Turn south. Proceed 3/4 Mile on S Ave 29E to E County 12th St. then continue 3/8 Mile West to town of Wellton Park. Microtel offers discounts if you mention your attendance at EDGE&TA Branch 206.

**February 4:** Board Meeting, same time and place

**February 19-21:** Play Weekend at the Pecan Farm, Jerry & JoBeth Hayes, 400-3547



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EDGE&TA Branch 240

Antique engines and tractors

**POWER**  
from the  
**PAST**

"No Style Like Old Style"

Newsletter, Nov. 2020  
Editor, Larry Kastens  
Layout Artist, Jim Fieber

Check or exact cash @ Christmas Party

### Membership Renewals, Due February 1 *(let's do it early)*

Individual or family membership (children under 18) is **\$30**, per year, plus **\$17** for each family member that drives a tractor or runs engines. Lifetime and Honorary Lifetime Members only pay the \$17 insurance, unless they have EDGE&TA insurance from another association. Please state on your renewal which family members will have the insurance. Please remit to Power from the Past & mail to

**Frank Bessler, 1392 E. Highland Ave., Pearce, AZ 85625-4093**

## Past Events

### Hidden Treasure Mall, Sept. 19

Gayland Yarbrough, owner of the mall, invited us to participate with his car show of expensive hot rods and conventional cars. We had 22 members and one guest, Arnie Anderson, entertaining a steady flow of spectators while Big Mamma provided food at reasonable prices. We had 4 engines, 11 tractors, a tool trailer, and a 57 Ford. Families which participated were Amatuilli, Ball, Brobeck, Christie, Culp, Davenport, Hawley, Hayes, Johnson, Kastens, Parker, Skaggs, Stevens, Stewart, and White. We have been invited back for next year. Lisa Clark, Bob Brobeck's daughter, came from one of the Carolinas to help Bob celebrate his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 20<sup>th</sup>.



### Engine & Tractor Show at Mr. Shed, Oct. 10

Karen Reid, the button lady, organized this event and was assisted by Tracey Hancock. Jim Goad, who is really Mr. Shed, provided lunch for all exhibitors. Luis Aviles (Gunny's) had over twenty luncheon possibilities for us to choose. Lauren and LaDonna Sheldon provided free wagon rides with two large Percheron horses. Jim & Bobbie White had the mobile tool trailer, Daryl & Pat Dwyer operated the LaCrosse engine, Kent & Carol Hardy ran the Western engine which ran a stamp mill, Lance & Liz Amatulli had a fabricated C cab truck and an International M engine, Darrel Harju from Socorro, Texas, ran a Hercules which powered a drill, Glenn and Debbie Johnson ran a Bovaird & Seyfang engine which powered a high pressure pump, and Larry Kastens ran a Galloway engine which powered a water-cooled air compressor. Matt Stewart took pictures and exhibited a Gibson and a fabricated green tractor, Mark Bott had a John Deere LA and an FMC tractor. Wayne & Phyllis Stevens had a Minneapolis-Moline G, and besides it was an LA Case which was displayed by Jerry & JoBeth Hayes and Zane Parker. Adam & Ryan Schneider and their children exhibited a John Deere B tractor, and Darrell Day had an Oliver tractor. Greg Skaggs brought the stanchion trailer and rope machine. He and Seth Hoyte helped some kids make ropes. Spectator members were Frank & Teri Bessler, Bucky & Tara Stevens, and Jim Hawley.

### Helldorado Show, Tombstone, Oct. 17-18

We had an excellent show at our new location which was a lot east of The Bird Cage Theater on Allen and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The City of Tombstone welcomed us and provided for our needs. We had 10 running engines, one cut-a-way engine, 15 restored tractors, and 6 garden tractors plus a C Cab roustabout. Lance and Liz, with the help of Matt Stewart, organized the event. Lance and John Davenport cooked the meats while Liz enlisted others to help with the salads and desserts. Lance and John also provided night security for our exhibits. Greg Skaggs,



Julie Davis, Justin Christie, Mel & Ruth Perkins, and Seth Hoyte managed the rope machine.



Photos by Davenport family

The member families of Amatulli, Blair, Brobeck, Blumel, Don Christie, Steve Christie, John Davenport, Zach Davenport, Davis, Dwyer, Fisher, Hardy, Hawley, Hayes, Hoyte, Johnson, Kastens, Kundrat, Levengood, McNeely, Parker, Perkins, Schmidt, Skaggs, Wayne Stevens, Stewart, and White, participated on Saturday. Additionally, EDGE&TA members from New Mexico's Vintage Iron were Bill & Sharon Massie and Darrell Harju.

On Sunday, Wayne and Phyllis Stevens led the parade with their International. Others who participated in the parade were Darrell Dwyer, Zach Davenport, Don Christie, Steve Christie, Justin Christie, Bruce Bluemel, Joyce Levengood, Matt Stewart, Jim White, Glenn Johnson, Jerry Hayes, Lance Amatulli, and Julia Davis.



### Plow Day at The Dog Park, Oct. 26

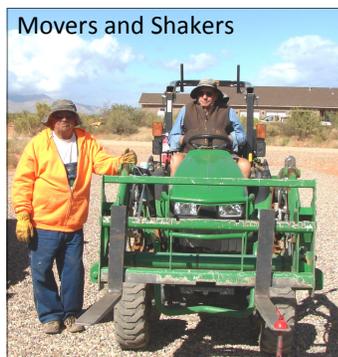
A fabulous fun day was had with three large and two smaller tractors plowing, disking, leveling, and rock picking at Suzanne Brown's Dog Patch. These were the machines and implements:



Stevens; Case DC (Jerry & JoBeth Hayes) pulling an MM 2 bottom roll-over plow (Jim Fieber); MM ZTU

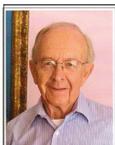


(Jim Fieber); JD 2 bottom plow (Jim Fieber); JD 318 diesel conversion with trailer for picking up rocks (Lance Amatulli). Greg Skaggs and Matt Stewart were the helpers.



### Death

Warren William McKay passed on October 9, 2020. Although, a telephone installer and handyman, his greatest joy was working with antique engines and sharing how they worked. He was preceded in death by his son, Scott. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Connie; his daughter, Carrie, her husband, Timothy Mills, and their children, Alexander and Emmalee, who sang at the funeral beautifully.



### Who's Who from Sept.-Oct. Newsletter

21. **Frank Bessler:** machinist, robotics instructor, plant manager, 2 U.S. patents, treasurer & board member
22. **Chuck Ostrander:** psychologist, engines & tractors, hummingbirds, former board member, Land Fund creator
23. **Bob Brobeck:** no tractors or engines, charter member, statistician, tractor pull announcer
24. **Lloyd Baker:** John Deere collector, former truck driver, Iowa farmer
25. **Ray Fisher:** rented stuff to Old Tucson, likes trains, lives in a Diamond T truck, charter member
26. **Seth Hoyte:** odd tractors, engines, motorcyclist, loves to speed, former president, board member
27. **Lyle Rasmussen:** caterpillar engineer, engines, charter member, current president, board member
28. **Lance Amatulli:** transmission changer, geo-caching, tractors & engines, event organizer, board member
29. **Jim Fieber:** MM & JD tractors, photos, signs, began event buttons, layout artist, board member
30. **Greg Skaggs:** Gibson, Novo, fuel pumps, PFTP trailer transporter, life-long mechanic

.....Leadership History Continued from previous publications

**2009-2010** (May 9, 2009—May 1, 2010)

**Spokesperson & Newsletter Editor:** *Larry Kastens*

**Secretary:** *Letha Vermillion*

**Treasurer:** *Shirley Ellsworth*

*Jeff Eppley*

*Kent Hardy*

*Mel Perkins*

*Chuck Ostrander*

Historian: *Jim Fieber*

Membership: *Carol Hardy*

Webmasters: *Aaron Sneary, Dean Suhr,*

*Larry Kastens*

**2010-2011** (May 1, 2010—May 5, 2011)

**Spokesperson & Newsletter Editor:** *Larry Kastens*

**Secretary:** *Art Rodriguez*

**Treasurer & Membership:** *Shirley Ellsworth*

Historian: *Jim Fieber*

*Jeff Eppley*

*Kent Hardy*

*Mel Perkins*

Webmistresses: *Erica McLain & Jackie Reed*

**2011-2012** (May 21, 2011)

**Spokesperson:** *Jim Fieber*

**Secretary:** *Larry Kastens*

**Treasurer:** *Shirley Ellsworth*

*Jeff Eppley*

*Kent Hardy*

*Mel Perkins*

*Art Rodriguez*

Historian: *Jim Fieber*

Membership: *Shirley Ellsworth*

Newsletter Editor: *Larry Kastens*

Webmistresses: *Erica McLain and Jackie Reed*

**2012-2013** (May 5, 2012)

**Spokesperson:** *Charles Rule*

*(Charles resigned on March 28, 2013. Seth Hoyte became the Spokesperson.)*

**Assistant Spokesperson:** *Seth Hoyte*

**Secretary:** *Mel Perkins*

**Treasurer & Membership Director:** *Shirley Ellsworth*

Engine and Engine Safety Director: *Kent Hardy*

Social Chairperson: *Jeff Eppley*

Historian: *Fred Bennett*

Newsletter Production: *Larry Kastens, Jim Fieber, Mel & Ruth Perkins*

Webmistresses: *Erica McLain and Jackie Reed*

Tractor Safety Director: *Neil Bourgois*

**2013-2014** (May 4, 2013 — May 10, 2014)

**President:** *Seth Hoyte*

**Vice President:** *Mel Perkins*

**Secretary:** *Joan St. Clair*

**Treasurer:** *Jeff Eppley*

Safety Chairperson: *Virgil Schmidt*

Engine Chairperson: *Jim White*

Tractor Chairperson: *Fred Bennett*

Historian: *Fred Bennett*

Membership: *Candi Eppley*

Social Chairperson: *Ruth Senkbeil*

Newsletter: *Gail Howard*

Webmaster: *Jim Fieber*

Button Maker: *Bob Hoffman, Jr.*

**2014-2015** (May 10, 2014 – May 9, 2015)

**President:** *Seth Hoyte*

**Vice President:** *Mel Perkins*

**Secretary:** *Joan St. Clair*

**Treasurer & Membership:** *Ruth Senkbeil*

Safety Chairperson: *Jeff Eppley*

Engine Chairperson: *Jim White*

Tractor Chairperson: *Virgil Schmidt*

Newsletter Editor: *Larry Kastens*

Photographer & Webmaster: *Jim Fieber*

Facebook Updates: *Jon Howard*

Button Maker: *Karen Reid* (July 2014 – present)

Social Chairpersons: *Ruth Senkbeil and Candi*

*Eppley*; January 2015 – *Candi Eppley*)

Historian: *Mel Perkins*

Inventory: *Frank Bessler*

**2015-2016** (May 9, 2015 – May 14, 2016)

**President:** *Seth Hoyte*

**Vice-President:** *Mel Perkins*

**Secretary:** *Karen Reid*

**Treasurer & Membership:** *Ruth Senkbeil*

Safety Chairperson: *Jeff Eppley*

Engine Chairperson: *Jim White*

Tractor Chairperson: *Tony Lawhead*

Newsletter Editor: *Larry Kastens*

Photographer & Webmaster: *Jim Fieber*

Social Chairpersons: *Ruth Senkbeil and Candi*

*Eppley* (Candi began in Jan. 2015)

Historian: *Mel Perkins*

Facebook Updates: *Jon Howard*

Button Maker: *Karen Reid*

Inventory: *Frank Bessler*

### Leadership and Service Positions, PFTP EDGE&TA Branch 240

President: Lyle Rasmussen, 780-2487

Vice President: Seth Hoyte, 971-2944

Treasurer, Membership, & EDGE&TA Ins: Frank Bessler 507-6104

Secretary, Historian, & Facebook Updates: Matt Stewart, 360-813-2171

Tractor Chair, newsletter layout, web site & photographer: Jim Fieber, 444-0098

Safety Chair & Newsletter Editor: Larry Kastens, 378-2226

Engine Chair: Lance Amatulli, 234-6813

Care: Wayne & Phyllis Stevens, 909-0171

Button Designer & Producer: Karen Reid, 255-7670

Membership and Ins. due February 1st 2021-do it early

## Why Tucson for the Fiebers

After leaving the homestead Mom and Dad bought property in the same county. This farmland was not cultivated by us but instead was leased out to a farmer down the road and we just lived in the house. The barn was little used. I think that it was small acreage and not enough to support a dairy. Dad drove a gas truck, at the time, that delivered gas and oil to farms and rural customers. We enjoyed the countryside living and pea harvesting time. There was a cannery someplace close and when the high sided trucks, laden down with a load of pea vines, would drive by our house we kids would all run out to the road. My sisters and I would pick up dropped pea vines off of the road and yell out to the driver for a bunch of vines for us. Some drivers would actually stop, get out, climb up the side and throw down a bunch of pea vines to us kids. No worry of road traffic, no direct supervision but in hog heaven over the treasure of sweet peas which we took back to the porch to eat raw and collect some in a bowl. Good, free, and simple times of enjoyment.



It was at that property that I was exposed to tractors and tractor driving for the first time. The nearby neighbor, that leased our land, was a kind man and when he would come to our fields with his John Deere he would stop at the house and wait for me to run out and hitch a ride with him.

Once I distinctly remember being with Mr V as he was picking stones in the front field with his sons. At one point I was invited and coached to move the tractor forward that was hitched to the stone wagon so that they could just keep collecting the stones. I had to be 4 or 5 years old. I was thrilled. After progressing down the length of the field and stopping at the end, Mr. V looked at me and says " look at the crooked tracks that you left in the field behind us!" I shrank in the tractor seat a little and then they all laughed. Mr. V was a kind man and I knew that he meant no harshness. Fond memories like that make me feel bad that I never thanked him for all of his graciousness and special attention that he afforded me. It made a lasting impression that I carry with me today. At some point Dad wanted to return to dairy farming again. My family at that point was Mom and Dad, 3 sisters and me. Not quite the right ratio for a farming family. Mom and Dad found a 140 acre dairy farm with machinery, cows, chickens and pigs in Fond du Lac county. Buildings were a 2 story farm house, 2 car detached garage, large hay loft barn, cement silo, harvester silo, chicken building, granary and machinery shed. Tractors were a Minneapolis Moline Z with mounted corn cultivators and an 8N Ford. All for, I think, \$140,000. First year there I started 1<sup>st</sup> grade in a two room schoolhouse for grades 1-8. Four grades in each room and taught by Catholic nuns. Also started to drive the 8N Ford pulling wagons and raking hay and such. This was common for all of my farming classmates and was only special to relatives and friends that lived in the city. To chop corn and hay, plow and other heavy cultivation Dad bought a used John Deere A. When it was delivered and being unloaded Mom came out of the house and approached Dad to say, why did you buy that tractor it sounds as if it is running on just two cylinders. It made for a good story to tell for years to follow.

Chopping corn with the John Deere was hard without a live PTO and heavy corn. So we got a 445 Minneapolis Moline with live PTO, power steering, hydraulics and ampliTorq high and low. With live PTO it was a breeze to chop corn, hay and had power to pull a 3 bottom hydraulic lift Oliver plow. Soon I got familiar with cultivating, plowing, chopping, baling and mowing hay with the 445. It was something that I enjoyed. What was there not to enjoy. I was trusted by my Dad, after instruction, to be safe and work independently to accomplish tasks that benefited the family and that fulfilling feeling cannot be created easily for 6-13 year old kids. (*emotion*) Dad always set me up in a field and then turned me loose. It allowed judgment on my part in driving and I was helping Dad. My ears would ring for hours after finishing a day's work in the field from the sound of a pulling tractor engine. Dad loved dairy cows and received some Dairy Science training after the war from the VA. He also did not avoid hard work. I liked driving tractors and not so much the work. Tractors got me out of some of the chores. My sisters did chores and filled-in for me many times.



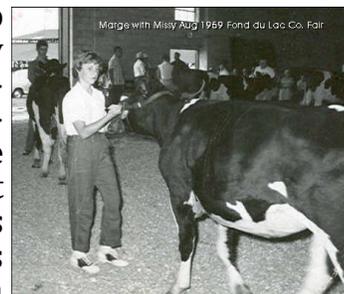
Oldest sister chopping hay with me

Dad built up the milking herd of 32 Holstein cows with artificial insemination breeding. We were a Grade A milk provider for Kraft Foods using surge milking machines hung with straps



Dad & I supervising 12,000 feet of tile

from the cow and carried the milk to the bulk tank in the milk house by stainless steel pails. Dad also increased the tillable land by laying cement tile in the ground to drain the marsh bogs adjacent to the creek that cut across the middle of our land. This made the land usable and the soil was just like peat moss that you buy in a bag. The first plowing was done by the tile layers with a Caterpillar and a large one bottom plow. In turning the soil over with the plow, which had a large moldboard, there times when the turned over soil would begin to spring back to the furrow cut. You would see the crawler driver quickly jump off the seat and run back to stop the roll back because if you did not, it would just keep rolling back the whole row. Dad was most proud of the land gain that was accomplished by the project and popped a button on the corn that was harvested



Sister Marge showing in 4H



445 Minneapolis Moline chopping 9 ft. corn, filled a/d from tiled land

in the new reclaimed fields. One far section of land was not recovered due to bad water springs that buried the Cat which required a number of neighbor's tractors to pull it out. That was a bad luck area with a later attempt to burn off the grass bogs and the fire got out of control by burning against the wind and traveling up a telephone pole. We all were beating the fire back with bags by hand and soon I retreated up the green grass hill trying to breath with an asthma attack. Mom and I could not help put out the fire. Our lungs just could not take it.

October of 1962 my baby sister Laurie was born making our family now 4 girls and 1 boy. Months later she had her first asthma attack. The sooner that you get asthma the worse it will most likely be. Discussion was immediately had as to our health options. There were now 4 of us that suffered from asthma. Mom, 2 sisters and me. My asthma was worse in fall harvest. Every year I would have perfect attendance at school until asthma would hit and I would be laid up struggling for two days or so to get air out of my lungs through restricted passages. Your diaphragm gets so sore and you get so weak from pushing air out all day and night to complete exhaustion.



Land was 1/4 mile wide and 1 mile long with county road on small side and 1/4

Our doctor said that Arizona would be good for us and that Phoenix or Tucson being good choices. Mom's asthma was triggered by mold so the dryer the better which left Tucson as our best choice. By June 29<sup>th</sup> of next year (1963) the farm land and buildings were sold to a family that had 10 kids and an auction was taking place to sell all of our animals, equipment and household goods. I had started to raise rabbits for fun and had just figured out the males from females and to not leave the buck in with the doe and the litter. So at the time I had 11 rabbits on sale day. Who knows, I could have been a rabbit farmer. Neighbors had a mink farm so what the heck, fur pelts are fur pelts right?

Mom and Dad, 5 kids with a 1960 Pontiac station wagon and a 4 x 7 U-Haul trailer moving out from rural Wisconsin to an Arizona desert city. No job, no house and only one contact in Tucson, a brother of a guy that Dad worked with at the gas truck job years ago. Never met this guy's brother but he was good people so his brother was probably too. Arriving in July heat was not good and being in the city was scary. Dad looked for work, did a short stint framing houses in construction but that did not work out. Then he got word that the University of Arizona extension farm was looking for a dairyman. Dad went for it and with his experience, landed the job. Dad gave up everything to tend to his family's health and that job milking cows at a dairy is what probably saved him from despair. He worked before and after the day milking, doing yard work for people to make ends meet and Mom worked in retail stores. Dad was 43 and Mom was 40 years old when this change of lifestyle happened. It turned out to be a good move for all of us. Mom lived until 91 years old and so did Dad. Us kids are all healthy and have next to no affects of asthma. After retirement from the U of A Farm,



**A MILKER'S MANUAL**

BULLETIN A-37 THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
Cooperative Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Station



farm and others. I still have two of them, the Minneapolis Molines. Both of them give me enjoyment in having them near and showing them off.

*Jim Fieber's family story*

\*Dad, Clarence Fieber, male model for a 56 page U of A manual

**Wanted:** -Fairbanks-Morse mixer (carburetor) for 3 hp. Z engine.  
Contact *Larry Denicke*, 707-303-7775 or [mariadenicke@mac.com](mailto:mariadenicke@mac.com)  
He thinks that the 6 hp. Mixer may work, too.

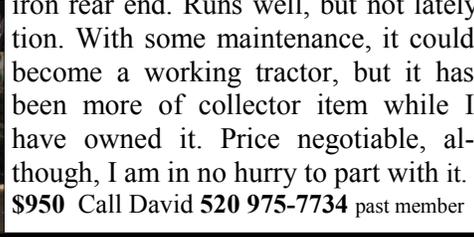
**For Sale:**  
-Allis Chalmers four cylinder engine & Continental four cylinder engine.  
*Stephen Ball*, 520-586-0992

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-1937 F30 Farmall project tractor needs to be put together. \$1,200.  
Call *Bucky* 520 429-0467



1946 Farmall A, runs great. \$ 2500 or best offer  
Call or text now. Frank Bessler 520 507-6104

**Cub Cadet**, serial number research, this tractor was made in early 60's and has the original heavy duty cast iron rear end. Runs well, but not lately. She has been kept in 'barn fresh' condition. With some maintenance, it could become a working tractor, but it has been more of collector item while I have owned it. Price negotiable, although, I am in no hurry to part with it. \$950 Call David 520 975-7734 past member



Web site; [powerfromthepast.org](http://powerfromthepast.org) for your reference of Club information and newsletters

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*P.O. Box 18348*  
*Tucson, AZ 85731*