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## Milt is Gone



**Milton Hertz (ND '69) died May 4, 2010.**

Milt and his wife Carol were active members of the Fraternity in earlier years, Milt serving as president of the OFA. Milt was one of the officers who approached John Deere about being a sponsor of our organization (which as you all know was successful).

In the 70s Milt was managing a large farming and ranching operation. He was president of the Mott School Board and also president of the North Dakota Board of Higher Education.

In 1983 Milt was appointed to the United States Department of Agriculture by President Ronald Reagan. He became Administrator of the ASCS, which is now the Farm Service Agency.

Milt returned to North Dakota in 1989 to continue farming with his son, Shane. He was fascinated by GPS technology and the efficiencies that it created. He and Shane used this and other practices to make their No-Till farm one of the most successful in southwestern North Dakota.

Milt supported his grandchildren in their academic and athletic endeavors, and always tried to teach them the importance of honesty, respect, and hard work.

Milt is survived by his children and their spouses: Sidney and Michael Fiergola, Minneapolis, MN; Shane and Stacey Hertz of Mott, ND; and Heather Hertz and Stan Blickensderfer of Mott, ND. There are six grandchildren. Milt and family hosted our tour group for a meal and tour a year ago in western North Dakota.

Milt's wife, Carol, preceded him in death.

One of our OFA friends said it best, "Milt was a gentleman and a gentle man."

## Greetings from Minnesota

We hope this issue of the *Spirit* is finding you in good health and spirits after the summer months. Another growing season is about to end here in the northland, and we have had a wet and stormy summer as most of you have also. We made a few trips to the basement this summer regarding the weather and it has been awhile since that has been the case around here. We continue to be blessed here in southern Minnesota with the way the crops have progressed so far. I think our crop will be average to slightly above in yield depending on the finish.

Back in March, Peggy and I, along with Pat and Jerry Barnes and Cheryl Salley traveled to Washington, D.C. on the annual trip with the 2009 national winners. Brent and LuAnn Johnson, Teresa and Steven Moore, Bruce and Helle Ruddenklau were present and Willie and Holly Sytsema were unable to attend because of some labor issues, they were missed. We made all the usual visitor stops and met with a lot of people in agriculture and politics. We participated in the Agday events and Bruce spoke at the luncheon and represented the OFA in fine fashion, very impressive. I think one of the highlights was meeting with Secretary Vilsak for nearly an hour. He was very cordial and asked for the thoughts of the national winners for future policy issues.

On the home front the girls have had an active summer with their horses; they have been showing at a lot of open shows this summer trying to refine their skills. So you know who has been hauling them all over southern Minnesota? Thank you Peggy, as she is more patient than I am. On the weekends they rise at 5:00 a.m. all bright eyed, load the horses and off they go for a half day. Peggy, the former city gal, climbs in the dually/5th wheel trailer with the girls and all I see is dust when they leave. I keep thinking to myself "Load-em up and head-em out." Paige (13) earned herself a trip to the state fair this year and has started cross country practice. Emily (10) has acquired herself a POA horse and did well at the fair also.

I am writing this at the end of August and we just got back from a family vacation that we took to the Black Hills. We stopped to see Dana and Julie in South Dakota and tried to hook up with Greg and Carmen Bendixson from North Dakota but were unsuccessful. We had great weather, drove through Sturgis, Spearfish, Deadwood and the Needles Highway. We visited all the monuments and took in a lot of history. Surprising to most of you we rode horse through Custer state park on a guided tour. The highlight of the trip as we saw the Black Hills the way the natives did. Peggy and I were a little bow legged afterwards but just another outing for the girls on the horses.

Have a safe and prosperous harvest as Louisville, KY, is fast approaching for the next congress.

President Scott and Peggy Hildebrandt  
sbhenter@myclearwave.net  
507-835-7813

## Greetings from Maryland

Sounds like everyone around the country has been dealing with weather issues this summer. Our farm has been extremely dry, while farms 20 miles away have crops that look wonderful. Spring started out with a nice trip to Arkansas in May for a site visit to check out facilities for the 2012 congress. The hotel and area will be a great setting for the OFA. On the way home we joined up with Jerry and Pat Barnes to use our trip to the Chicago Board of Trade with Onion Samuelson. We bought that at the auction a couple of years ago. After a wonderful meal with Orion on Thursday evening, we spent Friday touring his radio station, and then actually going down onto the trading floor. It was quite an interesting day! Thank you to Orion! When we were finished, the four of us were able to drive out to visit the Birchens and tour their farm. It is always fun to see other farms, and realize why they are in the OFA fraternity.

Judy started having foot pain during this trip and was treated for gout for two months after returning home. Finally, they figured out that it was a bone infection so Judy is now on antibiotics and having a couple of surgeries to get rid of the infection. Needless to say, this has been the summer of misery and not being able to get much done. Not being able to put any weight on a foot or drive sure makes for a boring time. Hopefully by mid September after the second surgery things will start getting back to normal.

After all the snow from last winter (50+ inches) we thought the ground was well saturated for spring planting. The only trouble was that the rain stopped right after we struggled to get hay made because of rainy weather. Early beans are looking fair, but some of the late beans are going to be killed early so we can plant another field of hay.

Keep in mind about getting some great young candidates for the OYF program. We are the best source for identifying these up and coming young farmers, so be ready to nominate a good one and help mentor them through the program.

Vice Presidents

Denny and Judy Crum  
crumland@hotmail.com  
301-898-1445

## Canned Cheese?

Remember a few years ago when we toured Washington and Oregon? When we were in Washington, we had a canned cheese that was wonderful. Pat Hennings sent me a flyer telling about the cheese made by Washington State University students. It comes in different flavors.

### How to order?

Online: [www.wsu.edu/creamery](http://www.wsu.edu/creamery)  
Phone: 1-800-457-5442  
Mail: WSU Creamery  
Box 641122  
Pullman, WA 99164-1122

## Secretary/Treasurer Birchens

Hello Everyone. We have had ample rain in our area. The end of July we had 13 to 16 inches of rain in just 36 to 38 hours. While we were fortunate not to have too much damage, we helped some folks who were forced out of their homes and still are not back in them yet. We never know what Mother Nature has in store.

We hope you have enjoyed your summer. In early August, Dave and Patty Endres (WI '01) helped us host our close group of OFA friends in Dubuque, Iowa. We really enjoyed the three state tours and getting together for fun and laughs. The guys enjoyed a tour of an Amish farm (WI) during tobacco harvest along with another producer from the area our daughter practices in. The girls enjoyed shopping in Galena, IL, and we all

took a cruise on the Mississippi River. We missed Kevin and Sharon Page (MI '91) who were in Germany.

We had visitors after the OFA site visit to Arkansas in May, Jerry and Pat Barnes (OR '70) and VP Denny and Judy Crum (MD '81). We were harvesting hay and finishing the spring planting/spraying at that time. It was nice they could come see "our neck of the woods."

We are happy to announce the addition of two grandchildren since the last newsletter. They are grandson Alan John born May 1, and granddaughter Emma Jean born July 13. Both babies are doing well, and we are enjoying them as much as possible.

We started our custom corn silage harvest early this year. We should wrap it up about six weeks earlier than

last year. The crops are maturing very well and it looks like there will be above average yields.

We want to thank John Deere for the grant we received for sending our national winners to Washington. We understand that this year's trip to Washington was exceptionally good. Check your calendars that you have February 17-20, 2011 blocked off to attend the

NOYF/OFA Congress in Louisville, KY.

Be safe out there, and we hope you have a bountiful harvest.

Secretary/Treasurer  
Rod and Mary Birchen  
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## Coordinator Pat's Comments

Greetings!

I would like to start out reminding all of you who have not submitted recipes for the OFA Cookbook that time is running out. If you have not sent in your favorite recipes and would like Gwen Gunn or me to put them in the cookbook, we would be happy to do it for you (or go to the OFA Website, [www.ofafraternity.org](http://www.ofafraternity.org) and click on Cookbook to enter them yourself.

Now is the time to start thinking about the 2011 Outstanding Young Farmer Congress in Louisville, Kentucky, February 17-20. The Friday Tour will be all day at the Farm and Machinery Show. Tickets will be available to purchase for the Championship Tractor Pull for those wanting to attend on Friday night.

For those not wanting to attend the tractor pull, we have a craft event planned for Friday evening at the hotel. Rita Baer has offered to show us how to do basket weaving. There will be a

fee for supplies which Rita will bring. If you are interested, please let me know so we will have enough material for everyone.

Another note to remind the Class of 1971 that your 40th anniversary will be in Louisville, KY. Be sure to plan to attend as you will be receiving special recognition. Class of 1986, your 25th anniversary will be receiving special recognition as well. There was not a Congress in 1961 so we do not have a 50th anniversary class. Please get in touch with your class members and encourage them to come.

I wish you all a wonderful fall season!

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**Sue Stanley (VT '74) wrote after she had been in Washington and had visited Pat and Willard Hennings (WA '65). She was traveling with a friend to Idaho and drove to the Hennings farm. When she wrote she was back home again and enjoying the late summer and the garden produce.**

**Earl is in assisted living and requires a "structured environment." Vascular dementia is the latest term used to describe his condition.**

# OFA Discover Missouri Tour

*By Ruth Pedersen (ND '67)*

WOW! And another WOW! Put together by Dale Ridder (MO '81) and Phyllis Hannan, with Carol Bauer again making the bus, hotel and many of the meal arrangements, this was another wonderful OFA tour.

After meeting at the Hyatt Regency Hotel near the base of the Arch in St. Louis on the 4th of July, we were able to enjoy the music and an air show featuring sky divers and several planes without leaving the area of our hotel. After our usual welcome dinner, this time a typical 4th of July meal, we could marvel at the fireworks from the comfort of our private dining room. We didn't envy the throngs of people who had gathered hours before to reserve a spot near the arch.

In addition to a visit to the museum at the Gateway Arch and a ride to the top of that arch to view the surrounding area, our tour of St. Louis included the magnificent Cathedral Basilica and the historic Anheuser-Busch brewery. One of our stops as we traveled through the beautiful forested slopes of Ozark Mountain country was the Meremac Caverns (where Jesse James was able to hide). Later that day we ate at Lambert's Cafe, the only home of "thrown" rolls where we had to catch our rolls and where we more than satisfied our hunger.

In the Branson area we attended the Baldknobbers Jamboree, Branson's first country music and comedy show a performance by the legendary Sons of the Pioneers, and a performance of the Shepherd of the Hills Outdoor Drama,

a drama that has been running continuously since 1960.

The first of our farm visits was at the Dickneite Farm in Iberia, with Ken and Donna Dickneite (MO '96) as our gracious hosts. Their diversified farming operation includes a 1,000 sow independent farrow to wean swine enterprise, 150 beef cows, 400 acre crops, fescue seed and a timber logging operation.

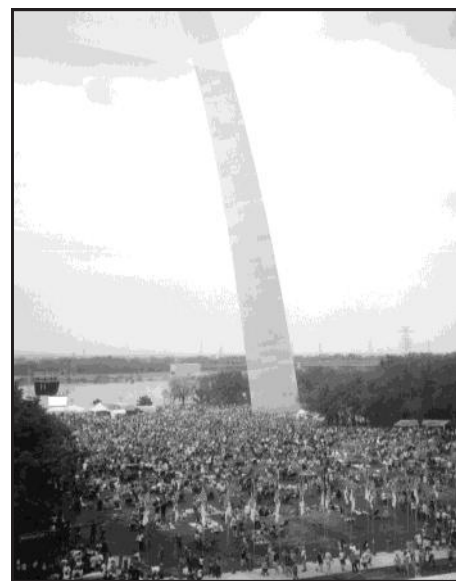
The next day we visited the Alfred Brandt (MO '00) Dairy Farm. This Ozark Hills dairy operation milks 150 registered Holsteins and produces most of the forage for the cows.

A special highlight of the trip was our unscheduled stop at Phyllis' extraordinarily beautiful hilltop home near Hermann, MO. From there we toured the 19<sup>th</sup> century picture-book village of Hermann, established as a German Society settlement along the banks of the Missouri River in 1837. Hermann, chosen several times as Missouri's most beautiful town, is located in the heart of Missouri's wine country. Our evening visit to the Stone Hill Winery included not only dinner of German specialties but also a Cajun Concert where we were entertained by authentic Cajun music and dance direct from the Bayous of Louisiana.

Our way back to St. Louis, we stopped in Defiance, MO, for a guided tour of the historic Daniel Boone Home and the 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings that make up Boonesville Village. We learned that, while born in Pennsylvania and spending most of his adult years in Kentucky, in 1799

Boone left Kentucky and resettled in Missouri where he spent his final years.

Although our scheduled dinner cruise on the Mississippi River had to be cancelled because of high water, we had a very enjoyable final evening together in a private meeting room at our hotel. Here we all agreed that we had had a wonderful trip with our outstanding host and hostess and we looked forward to learning where we are going next.



## The Arch

**This may not show in black and white, but the whole base of this picture is full of people. They came early in the day with their blankets and food for picnics, listened to music, and waited for dark and the fireworks.**

## OFA Fraternity 2011 South America Tour

Harvest Travel is in the final stages of organizing our Study Tour of Argentina and Chili, plus the optional three-day extension to Rio De Janeiro.

A full copy of the itinerary is available on the OFA Web Site [www.ofafraternity.org](http://www.ofafraternity.org). Departure date will be early January 2011. There is still room for those of you who want to experience this exciting tour. If you have never traveled with this group, you are in for a memorable

experience. Don't miss this chance to discover South America's farming areas and see what beauty God has created in another area of the world.

For more information, please contact Jerry or Pat Barnes at [lukybl3@msn.com](mailto:lukybl3@msn.com) or call 541-998-1313. You may also contact Carol Bauer at Harvest Travel International, [harvest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:harvest@sbcglobal.net) or call 1-800-227-0464 for more information.

## Explore the Mitten State of Michigan!

Come and explore the Mitten State of Michigan, August 7-14, 2011. From the sandy shores of Lake Michigan to vineyards of the Old Mission Peninsula and bountiful fruits of the orchards to tempt your palate, there is something for everyone to enjoy.



### Threw Rolls

This young man is ready to throw a hot roll. He has a rolling table of rolls to throw to whoever wants one. They were delicious.



Dickneites explaining their operation to some of our group.



### Alfred Brandt's Dairy

Alfred is second from the right. They had had five inches of rain the night before we arrived, so things were a bit muddier than he would have liked.



### Shepherd of the Hills

Starting at the left: Dale Ridder, Phyllis Hannan, Jim and Versey Stachler (OH '78), David and Bernie Schiver (IL '70), and Ken Bush (IL '66). Behind them you can see Bob and Ella Mae Wade (KY '69) and Kenny Mason (SD '70).



Ken and Donna Dickneite (MO '96) joined us for supper after we had visited their farm.



### Swiss Meat and Sausage

Marge Walchli (OR '69) looking over the array of meats they make at their store here near Hermann.



## Fireworks

We lined up at the windows of our private dining room to watch the fireworks.



## Lewis and Clark

This was taken in our hotel lobby, a picturesque setting for the statues of the Lewis and Clark expedition.



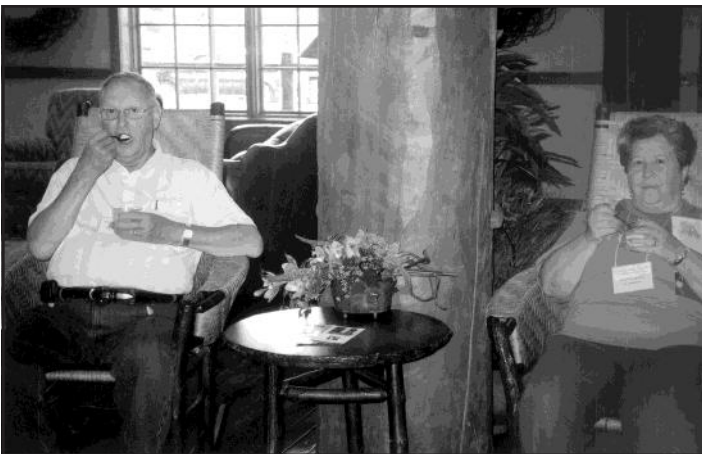
## Looking it Over

We always enjoyed the few minutes we could take to hang over the fences and look at the countryside. Mark Guess (OH '71) on left, talking to Gracie Richards (OH '67).



## Looking Things Over Again

Willard Hennings (WA '65) at the telescope. We were up in a tower near Branson. We watched the Zip Line a little below us, you could hear them yelling (I call it screaming).



## Ice Cream Anyone?

We stopped at the Ozark College where they make the products the students sell. Andy and Hildy Burger (DE '66) are enjoying some of the ice cream the dairy students make.

## Heberer's

Marilyn Bush called Wayne and Julie Heberer (IL '71) to tell them we were stopping at Eckert's and they came and greeted us. They live very near Eckert's. (Wayne and Julie, it's your 40<sup>th</sup> next year, we'll expect to see you in Louisville).

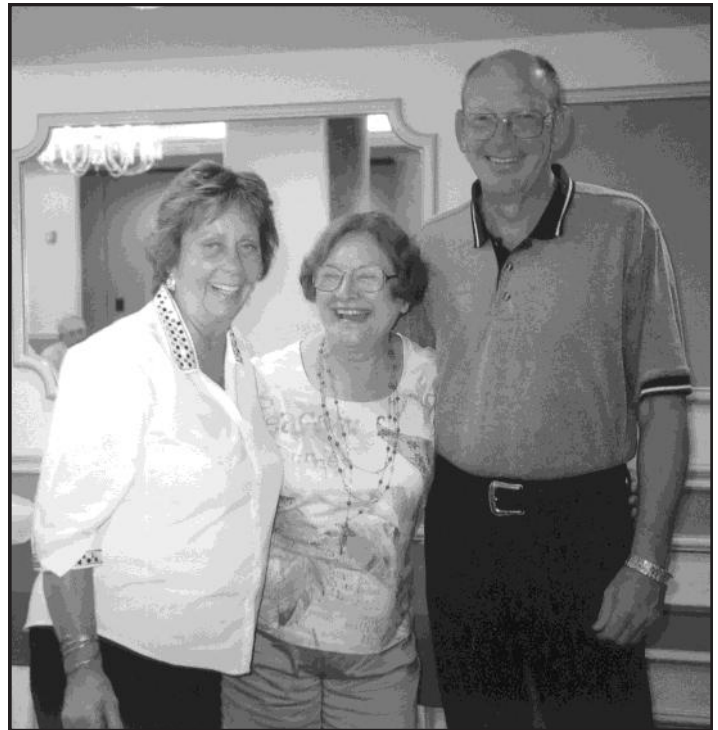




### Eckert's

Chris and Angie Eckert (IL '08), we caught them at their store and they were able to take a couple of minutes to talk to us. They were in the middle of the Grand Opening of an addition to the store. We all managed to get to the Frozen Custard building you see in the background. When we got back on the bus (which was much too soon), there was a bag of lovely fresh peaches for each of us. Thanks, Chris and Angie!

When we arrived back home, I opened one of my magazines and there was an article about the Eckert's and I believe it was apples. I saved the article but did my usual good job of filing and now I can't find it.



### Our Last Night

Ruth Pedersen (center) with our hosts, Phyllis and Dale. They received an award. I'm sure it must have been for the best host couple, they sure were!

**Louisville, KY - Feb. 17-20, 2011**

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### Tour Group

This picture was taken in front of Phyllis' house. Front row: Marge Walchli (OR); second row: Versey Stachler (OH), Dale Ridder, (MO) dog, and Phyllis Hannan; third row: Bill Richards (OH), Joan Conzemius (MN), Pat Hennings (WA), Marilyn Bush (IL), Chris Mindemann (OK), Hilde Burger (DE), Ruth Pedersen (ND), Connie Guess (OH), Audrey Mason (SD), and Ella Mae Wade (KY); fourth row: Ralph Thompson (ND), John Conzemius, Deloris Neece (IL), Lois Armstrong (CA), Joe Gambini (CA), Neoma Loehr (IL), David Schiver (IL), Ken Mason, Gracie Richards, Bernie Schiver, and Willard Hennings; fifth row: Mark Guess, Willard Pedersen, Jim Stachler, Andy Burger, Bob Wade, Al Mindemann, and Ken Bush.



### OUTSTANDING FARMERS OF AMERICA

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