

# **NATIONAL NEWSLETTER**

**Volume No. 23, Issue No. 1**

**January-February-March 2021**

**Editor, Carrie Jo Parmley**

## **From Jeff Fenske, President and Director-at-Large**

Greetings Everyone,

Hope you are staying safe and healthy. This year has been one for the record books.....And not in a good way. Who would have ever thought that our great country could be brought to her knees by a pandemic! Nothing is normal including our hobby. People are working from home and small businesses are closed. People aren't shaking hands and are wearing face masks that make conversations almost impossible. Our churches and schools are closed and sometimes we can't even get a haircut!! The government is trying to tell us not to get together with our families even for Thanksgiving and Christmas!! It's official as of last night we are in Lock Down/Stay at Home. Our Governor issued a mandate again!! It's like we are in a nightmare, but we never wake up. I am over 2020 and ready for the New Year and hopefully getting back to normal. We have all missed many of our club shows and parades due to Covid rules and regulations. We were fortunate that Branch 206 was able to have the SW Regional Show in Wellton, Arizona in January before Covid hit. Then October 10-11, they had the North Central Regional at Branch 28 in Cabool, Missouri. We have heard of several states that had fewer restrictions having shows and events this year.

Before the lock down we made a 2 ½ hour drive down to Branch 30 in Palmdale, CA for their annual meeting, dinner and campout. We had a great time visiting with their members, one of whom is our new South West Director, Ron Hanson. After that we had a great swap meet the first of November. We did a lot more advertising this year and had more sellers than normal. Too bad the weather didn't cooperate with us. We had a dust storm on Friday which caused more than a little grit. Then on Saturday it was threatening rain and it did rain all around us, but we came

through high and dry. We know a lot of buyers stayed home since they had rain at their houses. Too bad as they missed some really good deals. Lots of engines, a couple of tractors and trailers loaded down with parts. I was glad to be able to visit with everyone while I was BBQing burgers and hot dogs. I got to see most of the people there while they were getting something to eat.

Mike Pollock, from Anchorage, Alaska, has agreed to be my Advisor. He has been a member of Branch 52, Wasilla, AK for over 25 years. During that time, he has served as Board Member, President and is currently Secretary. He is an equal-opportunity-collector, in that he has some Ferguson, Massey-Harris, John Deere and Farmall in his shed. IH is probably his favorite. He is also interested in old equipment and has a '68 IHC Loadstar. His wife Tracy is a life-long Alaskan and he has lived there 45 years. In addition to the old iron hobby, they enjoy camping riding ATVs and snow mobiles. Collectively, he and Tracy have 7 children and 3 Corgi pups. His phone number is 907 229-3500, so if you get a call from this number it is NOT a telemarketer!!

If any of you would be willing to help EDGE&TA contact your Regional Director. Advisors could help with making phone calls to Branches in their area or come up with any ideas that would help the organization. We are always looking for new ideas, especially when it comes to getting young people interested and involved.

We understand how hard it is right now to get together for meetings, but we still need to think about dues for next year. Our Branches need the money to keep going and the National needs the money to pay the insurance and the administration costs of \$17 per year. For the National dues a cost of \$1.42 per month to be covered at events and to have all this fun and receive newsletters isn't that much. Also, each year the National sends \$1000 to Branch hosting a National Show and \$300 to each of 5 Branches hosting a Regional Show. We

also have a great EDGE&TA website that is full of information for the members. We understand right now it's a struggle, but please try to get your members signed up and the dues sent into Carrie Jo by mid-March so she can take care of the annual insurance.

We don't know what will happen in 2021, but we still need to make plans for shows and events. If we must cancel later, we can.

★ The Board of Directors has voted to eliminate buttons for the members for 2021. After discussing the expense to have them made and postage to have them sent out to every branch they decided that the \$4500 spent last year for buttons was extreme. Then each branch had to either spend money mailing them out to their members or taking them to events throughout the year. Of course, we all know how that went in 2020!! Carrie Jo will be sending out the stickers and extra yellow cards, if a branch requests additional cards for new members, in February. These should be able to fit in a regular envelope instead of a box. ★

Until We Meet Again, Stay Safe and Stay Healthy

**Jeff Fenske, President and Director-at- Large**

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**2021 Dues are \$17 per member**

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**From Bob Craig, Vice President & NC Director**

Greetings from the North Central.

I certainly hope everyone is staying healthy. In our area things could be better, and things could certainly be worse. For us, so many of the events

we would normally attend were cancelled. We were fortunate to have the North Central Regional Meeting in Cabool, Missouri at their show grounds this past October. At the meeting, we presented Morton Hall with the honor of being inducted into Early Day Gas Engines & Tractor Association Hall of Fame. Branch 28 has wonderful grounds; they have several permanent displays & a large tractor pull.

Any safety officers who have some young members that need to be tested for a youth drivers' certificate, this would be a good time to get them tested.

I know we all hope that next year we'll have a better season than this. It's hard to think of it being worse.

Here's to you all having a great holiday season and getting that old engine or tractor that's been in the corner of the shop for years running. Let's all stay safe and I'll see you when we can.

**Bob Craig – Vice President & NC Regional Director, Youth Driver Certification**

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***Happy New Year!!!***

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**From John Roderick, SC Regional Director**

This has been a very difficult year for all of us. Our branches haven't been able to meet. There have been very few shows or parades to be a part of. Considering these things, I realized last Saturday maybe I have been missing some opportunities to have some enjoyment in my own shop while promoting antique iron to the younger generation.

Now stick with me. It may seem I have gone off the rails but there is a point to all of this.

Each year, our church hosts an Angel Breakfast for all the children in the community. They are able to do crafts, have snacks, hear a Christmas story, wrap a gift for a needy child and meet with Santa! Well, this year, it looked much different. There was a drive thru to get packaged crafts and snacks and Santa and Ms. Santa stood outside the

cars and waved at the children. They also videoed several people depicting the characters in the Christmas story – shepherds, wise men, and even Joseph as the earthly father of Jesus and a carpenter. This video was then emailed to each family. I was given the honor of depicting Joseph, the carpenter.

Now back to my original thoughts. I was fortunate enough to have two teenagers come to my shop and video. While they were there, I was surprised and excited to see their enthusiasm and interest in my old equipment and antiques. It made me realize that maybe I could do more to promote interest in the hobby I love by inviting young people to my house for that very purpose. They loved the equipment but, even more, they loved the stories behind the equipment. Most of the items were from my Father and Father-in-law or even my Grandfather.

I know this subject has been discussed time and time again in all our branches – how do we get our youth involved. This is one way to reach our youth. Sharing our shops, equipment and, especially the stories, is a way to get more youth excited about “Old Iron”.

On another note, Jon Bellman of Nevada, TX has recently agreed to serve as my Advisor for the South Central Region. He will be assisting me with keeping in contact with the branches in the SC Region and with handling the specific needs as they arise. Jon has long been associated with our antique tractors and engines and has been very active in promoting the hobby. Currently, he serves as Vice President of Branch 138 in Nevada, TX, and is also Secretary of International Harvester Chapter #25 in Texas. I really appreciate Jon’s willingness to assist me, and I know you will enjoy the assistance he will be able to provide as well.

We are about to come to the end of 2020. This time last year I would have never dreamed we would be faced by some of the hardships which have touched all our homes. As we approach 2021, let’s hope and pray we face a better future. I think it’s important for us to realize just how blessed we are. I can’t speak for everyone obviously but my family and I are very fortunate.

I wish things were different so I could have the opportunity to meet more of you in person. I hope the new year brings your family much happiness and prosperity and our world will return to the

safe place it has been in the past. Take care and I look forward to meeting more of you in the future. My family and I wish you a Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year.

**John Roderick, SC Regional Director**

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**From Travis Brown SE Regional Director**

Well, here it is December and all our equipment is put away. We still have a couple of threshers to move around on a fair-weather day, but everything is under roof.

Before we put everything away, we still had a few events. I ended up having no less than four fall events that we were planning on bringing one of our steam engines get Covid canceled--very sad but not too unexpected due to the circumstances.

We still were able to take our steam engine to the Old Timers Day in Lavergne, TN. This is the second year we have attended this event. Last year I was double booked and sent one engine to one event and one to another. This year with one cancelled, we brought the big one to this event. It was pretty funny watching their eyes get really big when we rolled in with the 20hp Keck on the trailer. It takes a full-size semi-tractor and trailer to move this engine from place to place. At 24,000 pounds it’s a pretty big object to move. I cannot imagine how much more fun it gets moving the really big ones. So, we set up both engines in the park, full size and half scale and fire the big one still on the trailer. It gives a great display, even if we can’t move it around due to the fact it would remodel their asphalt pretty effectively.

The next week we are headed north. One of my favorite shows is the fall show in Boonville, Indiana. It’s a great show with all sorts of exhibits, sawmill, threshing, plowing with horses, hit and miss engines and a large flea market. It involves a bit of a haul, but since we have the truck and trailer, why not make use of it? One problem Covid has caused, I cannot get the DMV to renew our license plates due to the necessary paperwork on fuel tax being held up by someone being off work. This has gone on for months. I quizzed the guy we have roped into driving the truck, and he’s not worried. My state trooper friends act like they

have heard this story before and tell me if we are in Tennessee, it would not be a ticket. Only problem is that we have to cross Kentucky and go a few miles into southern Indiana.

So, we load up and head north. The driver gets there with no issues at all. We follow along a day or so later and unload our 20hp Keck with the Farmall 806 we put on the back of the trailer. A few hundred gallons of water later, and we oil it up and light the fire. It's nice to be firing in southern Indiana as it is just a few miles east of where my Keck Gonnerman was built in Mt. Vernon in 1921.

We have a bit of fun Friday at the show; one of the guys has purchased a prony brake to check the horsepower of the steam engines. It's not yet calibrated, but we all take turns belting in and trying to see how the various engines do. Our 20hp Keck posts the high score of the weekend, but I am not sure if that's correct or a calibration error.

Also, Friday we get to try something I have seen a little bit of but never were able to try for ourselves. You see, in Tennessee, our grounds are nice but like most of middle Tennessee, we have just a wee bit of rock. So, there is no plowing on our grounds. For the first time ever at Boonville, they want to get into the steam plowing business. One of the members has brought in a plow. A little bit of rigging and a battery powered hydraulic setup has been rigged up with a remote so the operator can raise and lower the plow from the platform of the steam engine. My two boys jumped up and proceeded to plow a few rounds. The old Keck was talking pretty good on the plow then, you can bet. We still have a few issues to get this set up dialed in, proper alignment to offset the plow, proper depth for the cutting wheels and getting the paint off the plow shares so they can scour properly. But it was a great experience. I'm very glad my friends helped us to rebuild our differential the year before as it was worn out.

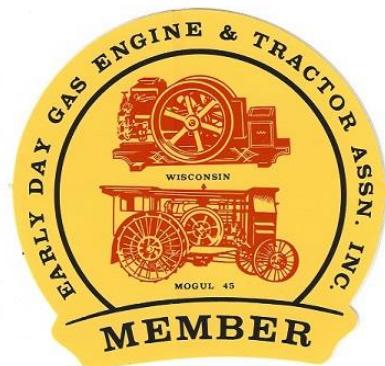
Saturday, we belted into the sawmill but cut it short as the weather forecasters were sure rain was coming due to one of the many hurricanes that hit the gulf area this year. Believing the forecast, we loaded up Saturday afternoon, as no one wants to load on a slippery deck and chain down in a monsoon. Naturally, it never rained.

Everything got home safely and after winterizing the steam engines, I then proceeded to

go and winterize the show grounds. All is looking good for the EDGETA National Show there come next September. Hope to see all of you there!

### Travis Brown SE Regional Director

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Website: [www.edgeta.com](http://www.edgeta.com)

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### From Ron Hanson, SW Regional Director

Hi Folks,

I'm hoping everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I am wishing this Covid Pandemic could come to a close so that more shows and meetings can happen. I'm definitely looking forward to some soon.

I have heard that they have now cancelled the Branch 206 show in Weldon, Az for January. This was always a fun show.

If there are any Club Branches in the South West Region that would be interested in hosting a regional show, let me know. We are looking for a hosting branch to do a show in the fall, possibly this year. Also, if you are interested in hosting a show in 2022, let me know.

We as national regional directors have been asked to appoint a "Regional Advisor," so I'm now looking for one. If this seems like a good fit for you, let me know. I would be interested in talking with anyone who is interested.

Stay Safe and hope to see you all soon.

### Ron Hanson, SW Regional Director

## **From Morrie Robinson, NW Director**

Holiday Greetings from the Northwest.

It's hard to believe it's nearly Christmas. Where did the time go?

The NW has been relatively mild, only a couple of frosty mornings. We are fortunate compared to the Northeast where heavy snow has fallen. Maybe next year it will be our turn. One thing you cannot predict is the weather. Even the Weatherman has a hard time making a prediction.

2020 is quickly coming to a close—"thank goodness." 2020 has been a year that "WASN'T."

Wasn't able to attend any "Big" Engine & Tractor Shows (even Rollag's this year's plate was "The Year that Wasn't")

Wasn't able to visit engine and tractor longtime friends

Wasn't able to see old friends at retirement centers & nursing homes

Wasn't able to visit neighbors

Wasn't able to talk to anyone with a technical question

Wasn't able to go the Library

Wasn't able to go into a business without a mask

Wasn't able to sit down in a restaurant--"takeout only."

I'm sure you could add more of the "Wasn't able to's."

2021 is Looking UP. Two companies are producing a virus vaccine--maybe there's some light at the end of the Covid 19 tunnel. Perhaps by early spring, we will have some shows.

Wishing each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2021 New Year.

## **Morrie Robinson, NW Regional Director**

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## **From David Millsap, NE Regional Director**

It's almost 2021.

Who'd a thunk it:

(A) That we would see 2021. Back when I was a kid and learned to figger an cypher, it occurred to me that I would be 61 in 2020, now that would be OLD, I hate to say it

but I'm there. 2020 is almost over. I say good riddance to bad rubbish.

- (B) There would be a worldwide pandemic shutting down the USA and the rest of the world.
- (C) One of the most highly controversial elections in our country's history
- (D) Rioting and looting in the streets with people wanting to do away with police protection (until they need them).

If 2020 would have been a tractor show, it would have featured odd balls and orphans. It's been that kind of year. We can hope for some semblance of normalcy in '21.

2021 brings a fresh new year for our organization, and I hope for a fine season of shows and activities. Personally, I have missed attending shows, tractor rides, and parades, especially Christmas.

Our numbers were down this year, but I think we will rebound!

Something we (the Board of Directors) want to implement is an advisor to the directors from their region, SO, if anyone would like to volunteer for this important role, please, please reach out to me [@sappo59@embarqmail.com](mailto:@sappo59@embarqmail.com) or (276)608-1626.

I know this has been a slow season, but hopefully you've got a nice warm shop for all the winter projects to be ready for spring 2021. Myself, I've redesigned my wood splitter 3 times so far, have 2 tractors in line, and I really hope for a new knee sometime early January. Until then, I've got about 5+ cords of wood to go (it's nice to have an outdoor water stove for home & show heat), a barn to build, enough to keep me occupied for a week or two.

I hope everyone has had a wonderful Christmas and holiday season and looking for a great New Year.

I've said enough today. MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR from SW Virginia where we have a 60% chance of a white Christmas, unlike most of the NE Region that has a 110% chance. Personally, I haven't figured out how to have more than 100% at almost anything.

So long for now. PLEASE, PLEASE be safe and stay well.

Feel free to contact me at any time (before 10 p.m. as I'm old.)  
Sappo(aka)David Millsap  
@ [sappo59@embarqmail.com](mailto:sappo59@embarqmail.com) or (276)608-1626.

### David Millsap, (Sappo), NE, Regional Director

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### From Dick Tombrink, NW Region

#### Gus Peterson

For those long-time members in the NW region, Gus Peterson, past director of the NW Region and Director from 1991 to 2002, passed away on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in Redmond, Oregon, at the age of 98. He continued to serve as an EDGETA Advisor after 2002. He was a member of five branches, but did not serve as a branch officer because he said the branch he called home was 200 miles away. He attended as many branch meetings as he could, even though they may be a 2-day trip away. I remember he and his wife Ruth coming to Regional meetings, usually with something such as a rare engine, or other artifact that was of interest and a good conversation piece. He felt that EDGETA was in a unique position regarding the educational aspect of the hobby; where else can one have the golden opportunity that we have to extend this knowledge and our past history to the younger members. He thought it was important to educate people how our ancestors lived, and how things were done before the main place to get milk and eggs was the supermarket.

He was a good friend of mine; I always enjoyed his company. He presented me with my Hall of Fame award in Lewistown, Montana, a day I will always remember.

### Dick Tombrink, Previous NW Director

### From Carrie Jo Parmley, Secretary/Treas./Editor

Hope all of you have a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I'm looking forward to starting a new year and working with you again as secretary/treasurer.

Stickers will be mailed out the end of the first full week of February. The number sent is based on the total membership for each branch for the previous year. However, since 2020 was an unusual year, I'll send stickers based on the 2019 membership, with optimism that we will recover greatly this year. Please be certain that the person who has been designated to receive the stickers will open and distribute the contents accordingly. If you need additional yellow cards, please let me know.

Just a reminder that dues are \$17 per person, and I should receive those by mid-March. The **Branch # must be on all pieces of correspondence: email, checks, and lists. The list and amount included must match or it will be returned, as was stated in several of the past newsletters. No dues will be accepted until after February 20, 2021.**

The 2021 EDGETA National Annual Meeting is September 10-11, in Eagleville, TN hosted by Branch 202.

If you have questions, or if you need additional information, please contact me at [cjparmley2@gmail.com](mailto:cjparmley2@gmail.com) or 903-360-0396.

Happy New Year and I hope each of you has a successful year.

### Carrie Jo Parmley, Secretary/Treas./Editor

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## Important Dates

**2021 Annual National EDGETA Show & Meeting**  
**September 10-11, 2021**  
**Branch 202 – Eagleville, TN**

See EDGETA.org for all Regional Shows for 2021  
--will be posted as dates are received--

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***See EDGETA.com for contact information for all Officers and Directors***