



PETE FRIESEN TIME-LINE

• 1922 – Peter D. Friesen is born in Ukraine Russia to a recently dispossessed Mennonite family that soon immigrates to Canada and homesteads near Provost Alberta.

• 1929 – At age seven, Pete discovers the guiding principle of his life while single-handedly repairing the farm windmill: “Think it through ... Visualize!”

• 1930s – With only elementary school education and no formal training, Pete manufactures tractor attachments and brings electricity to the family farm near Yarrow British Columbia.

• 1940s – After serving as a Conscientious Objector during WWII, Pete trades his new chainsaw for down payment on a house-moving business that flourishes in the aftermath of the 1948 Fraser River flood.

• 1950 – Frustrated by the awkward task of raising houses with mechanical screw jacks, Pete begins to experiment with hydraulic power and, in the process, corrects conventional misconceptions about fluids and pressures for the Ford Motor Company.

• 1955 – To the total astonishment of his co-workers, Pete designs and manufactures the world’s first Unified Hydraulic Jacking Unit, a system that raises a building evenly by a multitude of hydraulic jacks operating from a single control panel; his original unit is still in service today.

• 1960s – Pete sells his house-moving business to focus on hydraulic equipment manufacturing.

• 1967 – Responding to rising demand for pre-fabricated housing, Pete designs an assembly-line factory that produces 48 modular living units per day with only 57 employees.

• 1970 – Pete is invited to join Belding Engineering Corporation of Chicago where he begins a three decade long career in the United States, engineering and coordinating relocation of ever larger and more

fragile structures, including some of America’s most historic architectural treasures.

• 1973 – Introducing his innovative ‘Three-Point Loading System’, Pete relocates a historic fire station in Hyland Park Illinois and is awarded the first of four Guinness Book of World Records he would receive.

• 1978 – Pete relocates the Widow Clarke House, the oldest home in Chicago, moving it 27 feet up and 27 feet down, over the city’s elevated rail line that was temporarily shut down for the first time in history.

• 1986 – While someone else attempts to take credit, Pete becomes Site Supervisor as well as Consultant to save the historic Fairmount Hotel from destruction, moving it five city blocks in San Antonio.

• 1993 – Pete’s complex move of the very fragile Southeast Light on Block Island RI is recognized by the US Army Corps of Engineers as the top engineering job of the year.

• 1996 – Pete moves Highland and Nauset lighthouses back from the eroding shoreline of Cape Cod.

• 1997 – While Ford Motor Company engineers are saying it cannot be done, Pete masterminds relocation of the historic Gem Theater and saves it from destruction in downtown Detroit.

• 1998 – Against all odds and in extremely cold weather, Pete saves the historic Shubert Theater from destruction by moving it several city blocks in downtown Minneapolis.

• 1999 – Billed as ‘Move of

the Century’, the 3000-foot relocation of 208-foot tall Cape Hatteras Light in North Carolina is successful because of Pete and it earns the Opal Award for ‘Outstanding Projects and Leaders’ awarded annually by the American Society of Civil Engineers. According to its President, “No gathering of Engineering’s brightest and best would be complete without you, Pete Friesen.”

• 2000 – Calling it “a small job that just requires more equipment,” Pete moves the 280-foot, 14-million pound Newark New Jersey air terminal three-quarters of a mile with 1312 rubber tires on 167 dollies.

• 2006 – Playing three rounds of golf per week, Pete continues to consult on structural moves throughout North America while

refining his design for reversible, self-propelled dollies with integral hydraulic jacks. The acknowledged leader in the structural moving industry, Pete is valued for the warmth and compassion he brings to the job-site, as well as for his imagination and engineering acumen. A lifetime achievement award from his peers at the International Association of Structural Movers reads: “To Pete Friesen who spent a lifetime doing the impossible and helping others do likewise.”

• 2007 U.S.A. film premiere at Detroit last month.

Canadian film premiere at Provost on Saturday evening, May 5.

