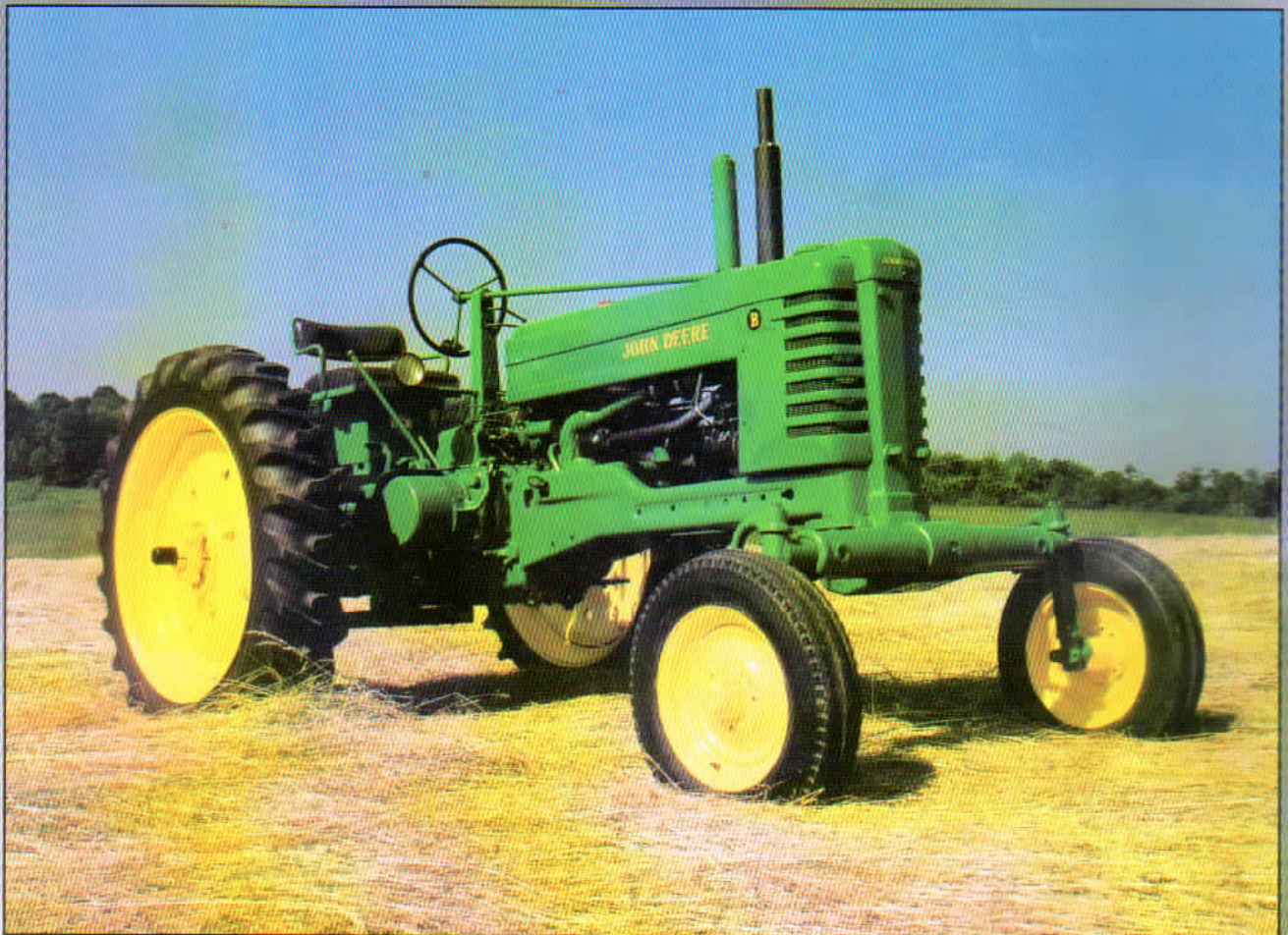


Green Magazine

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Football game + Lindeman with toolbar =

Romantic weekend

By Howard Yoder



It all started when the NFL football schedules came out last summer. My wonderful wife loves the Dallas Cowboys and likes to go to their games when they play anywhere close. She is very supportive of my tractor hobby so I decided to surprise her and get tickets to the Cleveland Browns and Cowboys' game on Sept. 7, yet keep it a secret from her.

I asked her to keep this weekend open so we could get away by ourselves. She had a gift certificate to a salon so I told her she should get an appointment for that Saturday morning and we would leave after that. I made arrangements to stay at the Barn Inn outside of Millersburg for Saturday night and dinner reservations for the Inn at Honey Run.

The week before this, I saw a "BO" Lindeman crawler that had a toolbar for sale on a website. I had been working on an "MC" with a toolbar and had seen a "BO" at the show in Springfield, Ohio with a toolbar and I thought it would really be neat to have one. The one for sale was in Mansfield, Ohio, which is on the way to Millersburg. So I called the gentleman and asked if it would be possible to look at it on Saturday afternoon and he told me "no problem." Well, I got up the nerve to ask my wife if it would be all right to make a quick stop in Mansfield to look

at it. She was very nice about it and said she didn't mind at all. (I think she has come to enjoy meeting the people I run into in this hobby because they usually are really nice.)

So when she got home on Saturday, we headed up to Mansfield and as I was looking over the crawler, she said she was surprised that I wasn't asking about the JD log splitter. I asked her, "What log splitter?" She informed me I had tripped over it about four times, so I came to the other side and there it was.

I had never seen one before so I asked them what they wanted for it and after calling their brother in California, they gave me a price. The crawler was a little rougher than in the picture, so I wasn't sure I wanted to pay as much money as I originally had in mind. We kicked around some prices but they wanted about \$300 more than I wanted to give. I was ready to leave to think about it, but I looked at my wife and she was nodding her head, yes.

With her blessing on it, I decided to go for it. I paid for it and the log splitter. I told them I would be back when the check cleared. These were some really nice people who had gotten into an estate deal that they didn't deserve but that is not my place to share with you. The "BO" was supposed to belong to one son, but circumstances

were that they had to sell it.

We got to the Barn Inn just in time to freshen up for dinner and had a nice stay. That night after my wife went to sleep, I folded a piece of paper with the Barn Inn's letterhead on it and put the tickets inside of it. I wrote that we had won tickets to the game and laid it by the door like it had been slid underneath. The next morning, she found it lying there and about went nuts even though it didn't take long for her to realize it was my handwriting. She was still going nuts. We had breakfast there and she told everybody what I had done.

We then went to the game which my wife enjoyed but since the Browns lost, it wasn't so much fun for me! All-in-all, it was a very nice weekend. My friend, Paul Thompson, and I went up the following Thursday to pick up the "BO" and log splitter. The family really enjoyed Paul explaining what everything was that their dad had left behind in the garage. He really had some neat things that he had collected over his lifetime. Paul knew what everything was.

I know the family has been very busy taking care of the estate and I appreciate that they still took the time to write about their Dad and the dozer. I have included their story (on next page).

1947 John Deere Lindeman "BO" crawler

Serial Number 336460

Our grandfather, Emmett O. Casler, his brother, Benjamin "Giles" Casler, and our father, John W. Casler, partnered up to purchase their brand new 1947 John Deere Lindeman crawler. Initially, they used it to dig basements and grade several home sites on Detroit Avenue in Mansfield, Ohio. When State Route 30 was widened, they purchased and moved four houses to Detroit Avenue, and also built at least six or seven other houses. Family legend has it that Grandpa got tired of waiting for the county to extend Detroit Avenue and he used the crawler to grade and extend the road.

At the age of 19 years, Dad also used it to build his first home on the next street over, Stewart Road. He and Mom moved into that home in early 1949. Dad was 20 years old and Mom was 18.

In 1952, our parents purchased a small farm north of Mansfield on Franklin Church Road. Dad then bought out his father and uncle for full ownership of the Lindeman crawler.

The farm had an old house and in short order, Dad started to build his family an all brick ranch home. He used the crawler to pull logs he had cut down in the woods. After taking them to the mill, he used this wood for our new house—for the framing, cherry paneling on one living room wall, pine kitchen cupboards, etc.

The dozer was used not only to pull logs, but to grade the house site and dig the basement, as well as some demolition, grading and leveling of the old farm house and garage that came with the property. He created a couple of driveways, pulled a few stumps out of the ground and pushed large rocks in the fields off to the edge, or in a big pile, so he could plow and disc those fields.

Dad loved his crawler as a toy/tool for the big boys to "play in the dirt" as he liked to say.



Our older brother, John, remembers that Dad would occasionally let out a string of cuss words, likely due to some skinned knuckles when pulling on the heavy flywheel. And once she sputtered and came to life, he would close the compression valves and let her warm up.

But he always had a big smile or grin on his face as he sat in the seat and took her to her task, with that popping, coughing, unmistakable John Deere two cylinder sound.

Our younger brother, Danny, remembers the crawler as the first machine Dad ever let him drive. In the early 1960s, when he was 8 years old, he worked with Dad on the crawler. Together, they gave it a good tune-up and a new paint job.

Dad also used his crawler when he built the new split level on the farm in 1974 to 1976. After that, he basically retired the crawler and stored it in his new pole barn until 2007.

It was with great regret that we, John and Fern Casler's children—John, Barbara, Cynthia and Danny—sold Dad's crawler. But we are happy it went to a fellow Ohioan who appreciates this vintage treasure.