

TWO-CYLINDER



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A goodbye to Jesse G. Lindeman

I was contacted by Jack Cherry (editor of Two-Cylinder Magazine) with an invitation for Jesse to come back for the 1992 Two-Cylinder Exposition with them paying his expenses. Jesse was very excited about the trip, he then check with his doctor and was told that it would not be a very good idea, he didn't want to but did listen to his doctor and declined the offer.

At that same show Del Bice a local JD Dealer (a close friend of Jesses) was attending and met Harold Schultz and his wife Virginia from Ollie, IA, that was showing their "BO" Lindeman that has rubber tracks so it can be driven on the pavement. In their conversation they talked about the National Antique Tractor Show being held in Yakima in August and that the Lindeman Crawler was the featured tractor. Harold and Virginia drove across country to with their Lindeman in tow to meet the man that designed and built his favorite tractor. Harold pulled Jesse the Grand-marshal in the Starlight Parade to kick off the tractor show.

When Jesse passed away in September I sent the #2 of 6 signed photo with Jesse, Matt Shoemaker (behind), and Ray Johnson (beside) the last "BO" Lindeman Crawler off the line in 1947, along with the obituary to The Two-Cylinder Magazine. I was glade to see it included in the September - October issue.

They contacted me and ask if they could come out to Yakima to gather information and photos for an issue of the Two-Cylinder Magazine. I said yes, in late November or early December Jack and his partner Dave Trumbauer drove to Yakima. They spent two days going through the photos and negatives. I let them take what they needed back to Iowa with the stipulation that I would get them back along with a copy for Lindeman Archives. At that time Jack told me that Jesse was to the tractor industry what Winchester was to the rifle. I don't know if he was serious or just buttering me up, but in my mind Jesse was that much of an innovator.

I thought it would be in the May - June issue. It was a real surprise when the January - February 1993 issue came out and it was entirely devoted to Jesse. I received my copies and the negatives back shortly after.

Thank you Jack and Dave for your good work.

Ted E. Adams

Lindeman Archives



Jesse G. Lindeman

October 12, 1899 — September 10, 1992

Jesse (Jess) Lindeman was born in Iowa on a small farm in Cass County to Joseph and Elizabeth (Boseck) Lindeman. He attended country schools there through the eighth grade.

In 1918, he joined the air service of the U.S. Army. In 1919, he returned to civilian life and moved to Yakima, Washington, where he was employed by Rovig Lumber Company. In 1922, he and a brother, Harry Lindeman, purchased the implement parts of that business and formed their own business, Lindeman Power Equipment Company.

In 1924, Jesse married Jane Omega Tufts in Yakima. The following year, another brother, Ross Lindeman, joined the business and acquired dealerships for Cletrac, Mack Truck, and Holt Tractors and relocated to Walnut and First Streets. In 1929, the company moved to South Third Street into a plant more suited for this type of business. Another brother, Joe Lindeman, joined them. During this period, along with their other business activities, they became a John Deere dealer, and among their many endeavors developed a crawler attachment for the "GP" Orchard Tractor.

Over the next few years their business of manufacturing equipment and implements

was expanded considerably, and eventually employed 428 people. The company manufactured many different parts for the U.S. Navy during WW II, but is best known among John Deere enthusiasts for their manufacture of their crawler assembly for the Model "BO".

In 1947, the business was sold to Deere & Company and was operated as the John Deere Yakima Works until 1954. Jesse and Joe Lindeman started Northwest Equipment Company in 1954, which became a major builder of rotary tillers and special equipment for fruit handling. It was sold in 1982. In 1985, a smaller factory, Lindex Company, Inc., located on South First Street, was formed for the manufacture of 3-point hitches and power take-off units for crawler tractors. The company remains in operation.

Jesse was preceded in death by his father in 1959; his mother in 1962; brothers, Harry in 1930; Ross in 1948; and Joe in 1982; and his wife, Jane, in 1987. He is survived by his sons, Bruce of Yakima; and Bill of Port Townsend, Washington; his daughter, Betsy Lindeman Gammell of Alameda, California; a sister, Alice Downs of San Diego, California; seven grandchildren; one great grandchild; and several nieces and nephews.

Right: Jesse Lindeman with the last of 1675 "BO" Crawlers off the line. Yakima, Washington. 1947.



Gene S. Luselman