

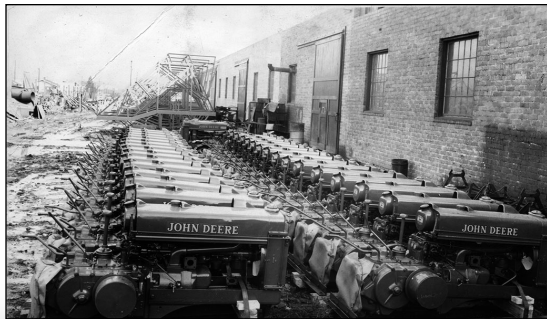
How I became
A Very Special
John Deere “BO” Tractor



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I started life at the John Deere factory in Moline, Illinois, by being given the name “Model B Tractor 336200.” My assembly was started shortly thereafter.

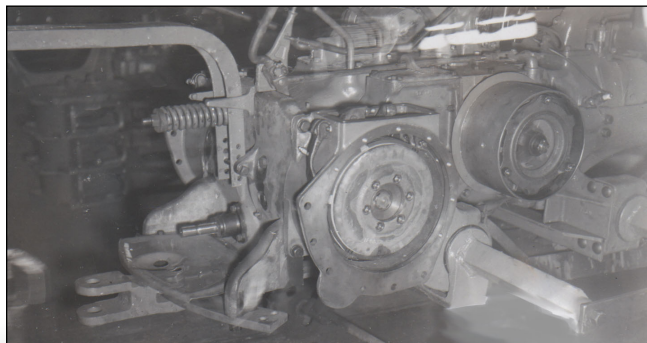
Word came down that an order for 29 chassis with no running gear was made by a company way out west in Yakima, Washington. I wasn’t going to get my final drive and wheels! I couldn’t understand what was going to happen to me and my 28 brothers. When on May 16, 1946, we were all loaded on to a railroad flat car heading west.



Once the train stopped, our car was unhooked and put onto a siding spur. There was a short ride of two or three blocks, then we were all unloaded and lined up alongside a big building. One by one we started to be taken inside, and finally they came to me.

When I was inside I saw there was an assembly line, and I was put onto a cart that had wheels to run down a track like the

railroad, only much smaller. I was hoping that I was going to get my final drive after all. They added gears, shafts, and then a big cast plate, where my final drive would have been. This was all unfamiliar to me compared to what I had seen back at John Deere. They added a couple of holes to my side, threaded them, then started adding castings. The next person down the line put a hub



with
a brake

band around it in the casting, and then came another flat plate. Next they added what they called the “final drives”. These were a lot different from what I had thought they would be; I had two of them, one on each side, not a big one across the back. I



had “crossbars” and what they called “undercarriages” added. I was wondering when the wheels would be added, then I saw these tracks like the ones used on Caterpillar Tractors lying on the floor just ahead of me. I got to thinking that John Deere didn’t make a crawler. Was I going to be one of those Lindeman Crawlers I had heard about? YES! YES! I was going to be a Lindeman - John Deere Crawler! I was at the Lindeman Power Equipment Co., manufacturing plant in Yakima, Washington, becoming a special tractor after all, just like I had always thought



I would be, one of the 1675 that were ever built. I finally rolled off the line, and looking back on it now there was a lot more to come.

I can’t remember who my first owner was, but it was a good life doing what I had always thought I was meant to do. I worked so hard for him that I wore my undercarriages out and destroyed my shutters. He liked me so much that he took the undercarriages from a “John Deere 40C” that was being scrapped and cut them down so they would work on me. I was so proud that I was liked enough for him to go to that much trouble, and that he didn’t want to scrap me and go to a newer model. I worked hard for him for many years. Then he decided to retire and sold the farm. I was sold to Terry Anderson, a farmer in Idaho. He had always had Caterpillar tractors in the past, and I was painted yellow with some of the paint he had left over. This was a very strange feeling to be all yellow now after so many years of being green with just a touch of yellow! I worked hard for him for many years until a man in a big SUV with a trailer pulled into the yard and talked with Terry. The next thing I knew they were driving me up onto the trailer and strapping me down.

A man had put an ad in the paper looking for a Lindeman Crawler. Terry had called him and made a deal to give me a new home. I didn’t know it at the time but this would be a very happy time in my life. I would get to see Jesse (pronounce Jess) Lindeman again (the man who had invented and built me), and I was going back to Yakima.

As it had turned out, there was a group of businessmen that had lunch together a couple of times a week in 26A at the convention center in Yakima. Along with lunch they would play cards. If Jesse went back to work, it meant he was losing; if he was winning he would stay, talking about the old days until it was time to go home.



One of the other card players was my new owner Paul Cook. As they talked, he had decided to find a Lindeman Crawler. He had found me in Sandpoint, Idaho. Once he got me home, he told Jesse what he had done asking him to come out to his house to look at me. Paul then asked, was I all correct? Jesse told him that



some of the first Lindemans he built had different undercarriages, similar to the one that was on the one he'd bought. Paul was so enthusiastic that Jesse didn't have the heart to tell him that my undercarriages were from a newer John Deere Crawler model that had been cut down to fit me. I was so proud, here I was having my picture taken with Jesse Lindeman, the man

who created me. Paul went on to be one of the biggest collectors at that time, owning nine "BO" Crawlers. Once he had started to collect more of my brothers, he realized that I was not correct. He kept me around but back in the corner. He even had a building built just for us.

At about this same time, Bob Mull from Sepia Production in Seattle was transferring some film of a wedding for friends. In with the





film were a number of other films about old implements and tractors. He knew this was some history that needed to be saved so he contacted a friend, Delmer Riel. They made arrangements with Jesse to use the film in making a video of "The Lindeman Story".

The Washington State Pioneer Power Show was hosting the 1992 Early Days Gas and Tractor Assn.

"National Show" featuring the Lindeman – John Deere Crawler. Paul had a trailer converted to display some of his collection of Lindemans, but sadly I didn't get to go to the show.

Paul was contacted by a man who was looking to sell his Lindeman Crawler, but he didn't want to take on any more projects so he told Ted Adams (manager of Jesse's last company Lindex) about it. He and Ted drove up to Lynden, WA, pulling his trailer to hopefully bring the Lindeman back. The man wanted too much for it and would not come down on his price; Paul advised Ted not to buy it. On the drive home they were discussing the possibility of Ted buying one of Paul's. Paul agreed to



consider it because he knew how much Ted wanted to have a Lindeman around the plant so Jesse would remember about the old times and tell how, when, and why he did some of the things that were done.

Sad to say but nothing came of it until after Jesse had passed away. Paul had lost interest once Jesse was gone; he then sold me to Ted. Once



he got me, he changed my undercarriages to the correct ones. It was nice to have the correct parts back on but sad also. He would take me to the tractor shows for the next few years. He eventually bought another Lindeman from Jesse's nephew Bob Lindeman, along with a lot of spare parts. In those parts were all that was needed to convert that crawler into a wide gauge. He rebuilt the crawler and converted it over to the wide gauge. Ted didn't have a big enough trailer to transport both of us to the shows, so once again I had to stay home.



He could see I was sad. I was then sold to Bob Smythe with all the old undercarriage parts that were on me when owned by Paul. Bob changed me back to the way I was in the photos with Jesse, plus added the front louvers that I was missing to

keep me warm. I was so happy I felt special again. He took me to the Brooks,



Oregon Tractor Show and displayed a photo showing Jesse seated on me, and I got a lot of attention! After that show I was stored with all of Bob's other Lindemans and almost disappeared because there were so many of us there. He had a collection of over 70 Lindemans and a lot of other John Deere



tractors.

After years of collecting John Deere's and Lindeman's, he got tired of seeing all that green and sold his complete collection including me to an auction company back east. From what I have heard by way of the tractor grape vine Bob was collecting and restoring Caterpillars and now has a few of my Lindeman brothers again. I was eventually sold to a collection in North Carolina, owned by Pat Farmer. Once he had me home, he had to add the hydraulic unit that had been removed at the action yard. I am a very happy Lindeman - John Deere Crawler again, I have some of my brothers here with me.



Pat pictured with me.

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