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## **The Waterloo Boy Tractor: The Beginning of the John Deere Two Cylinder Tradition**

**By Dave Cole**

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Waterloo Boy Model N 1916 to 1924

Anything that can be done on the farm by horses, can be accomplished by the Waterloo Boy Tractor.

The Waterloo Boy tractors had a water cooled, two cylinder engine that burned kerosene, a cheaper fuel for farmers to purchase. The transmission was located on the left side of the engine, instead of in line or behind the engine. It had automotive type sliding gears, the Model L and R had only one forward speed, while the Model N had two. (Although bull pinion gears as an in field add on were available by special order for farmers who found the need for more speed)

The Model R Waterloo Boy Tractor

Until 1919, the Model R Waterloo Boy tractor was sold in 13 different styles, from the A to the M. Style N, which became the Model N Waterloo Boy tractor was introduced in 1917.

The Model R was much the same as the Model L, except that the R was given a 6.5 bore where the L had a 5.5 bore, both had a 7 inch stroke.

A little over 8,000 Model R's were manufactured, including those shipped overseas.

The Model N Waterloo Boy Tractor

The Model N Waterloo Boy was manufactured from 1917 thru 1924.

It was known as a 12-25 tractor because the tractor delivered 12 horsepower at the drawbar and 25 horsepower at the belt pulley, at 750 revolutions per minute.

The new and improved Model N had two forward speeds, 2 1/1 and 3 miles per hour.

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Pulling a 3 bottom plow, or a 9 foot disc harrow, or 2 binders, the new Waterloo Boy Model N had two forward speeds with a 6.5 bore and 7 inch stroke engine. It delivered 16 drawbar horsepower and 25 at the belt with an engine rpm of 750.

The outer bull pinion gear on the final drive was changed to have the teeth face the inside of the drive wheel to decrease wear on the final drives and help shield them from dirt.

The Model N was an immediate success with almost 5,000 units being sold in 1918.

### Waterloo Boy and Deere & Company

Noting the success of the Waterloo Boy Tractor, Deere and Company's sales manager Frank Silloway began to investigate. The philosophy of upper management was that Deere and Company could no longer just manufacture implements, it was time to move on to the business of selling tractors.

While Deere and Company had been experimenting with various tractor designs since 1912, nothing had proven itself to be a seller on the market.

After much consideration and despite the consternation of certain board members, Silloway believed the Waterloo Boy Model N was the second best tractor on the market, the first belonging to the International Harvester Company.

Sales in 1919 did hit a slump, mostly due to Henry Ford's introduction of the Fordson tractor, but the board members of Deere and Company did take an option to purchase the Waterloo Gasoline Engine Company.

On March 14, 1918, an agreement was reached by the board agreeing to purchase the Waterloo company for \$2,350,000.

On January 20, 1920 Deere and company were officially in the tractor business. The acquisition gave many more sales opportunities to the Waterloo Boy tractor as Deere and Company had an already established dealer network across the United States.

The new John Deere Waterloo Boy tractors were to be painted John Deere green, except for: hub caps – red, gasolene tank – red.

The Waterloo Boy decals were were still used, however the John Deere decals were placed on the front.

In March and April of 1920 the Model N had the privilege of being the first tractor tested at Nebraska under the new tractor testing law.

The tractor exceeded the advertised 12 – 25 and became also the first tractor to be certified.

### The Waterloo Boy Overtime Tractors

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Export of the Model R began in 1917 with tractors going to Denmark, England, France, Greece, Ireland and South Africa. Most of these exported to England were purchased by L. J. Martin, head of the

Overtime Tractor Company, London.

Upon arrival these tractors received a new paint job, decals and serial number and a new name....Overtime.

In Great Britain, the Waterloo Boy tractors burned paraffin, the British equivalent of kerosene.

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For a complete history of all the John Deere Two Cylinder Tractors, visit our tribute to the Johnny Poppers and also see pics of our working 2 cylinder tractors, along with a whole bunch of Cool Green & Yellow stuff

<http://petcaretips.net/john-deere.html>

### **Peace Breaks Out**

**By Janette Blackwell**

In that spring of 1946, when he heard the Bauser boys were back from the navy, Daddy hired one of them to help with spring plowing. He didn't give Barry Bauser any instructions. Everyone knows how to plow. He just hitched the plow to the John Deere tractor and waved his hand in the direction of the field to be plowed, which was the field right next to our house.

"Yes, sir!" said the Bauser boy cheerfully, giving Daddy a favorable impression of what he'd learned in the navy.

The Bauser boy felt good that day. It was spring. He had expected in the spring of 1945 to die fighting the Japanese before the spring of 1946. Instead he was not only alive but whole. And not only whole but healthy. And not only healthy but free: free of the navy, free as a bird. Life rose within him and overflowed. He climbed onto the John Deere tractor, started its wonderfully noisy engine, gunned the motor, and took off around the field, the plow following behind him.

Now, he started out all right. You could see by looking at the field that he had. The first time he went around the field, young Barry plowed a slightly erratic but passable furrow. But, as his spirits rose, so did the speed of the John Deere. Which you might think was a good thing, he certainly thought was a good thing, but it was not in fact a good thing.

Most likely, when Barry was a boy, he plowed with a team of horses, and horses have better sense than to speed along while plowing. Plowing with a team is a dull, slow, plodding job. But when you urge a tractor to get up speed, the tractor takes real interest in your request. And, for whatever reason

but probably for that reason, driving the John Deere went not only to Barry's head but to his foot. And as young Barry's foot hit the accelerator, the engine roared louder and louder.

Which sounded good to Barry Bauser, you bet.

The tractor roared along at about thirty miles an hour — twenty–five miles an hour faster than it was meant to go with a plow behind it.

And the plow? The plow tried to follow. It flew through the air for a few feet, landed with a thud, plowed a few feet of earth, and then took off in another flying leap. The effect was rather like that of a jackrabbit chasing a dog.

Daddy came in the house and got Mamma and Davie and me to come out and see what was going on. As we stood in our back yard gazing, the Bauser boy assumed we were admiring his technique. He waved cheerfully as he and the bounding plow sped past. Davie and I waved back. It looked like he was having a lot of fun, we thought. (Well, he was having a lot of fun.) Mamma and Daddy looked grim.

"I don't know whether to laugh or cry," said Mamma.

"Me either," said Daddy.

But as they watched they looked more and more like people who'd gotten a kink in their innards.

"You ought to stop him," said Mamma. "He'll ruin that plow. Probably ruin the tractor too."

But Daddy pretended he hadn't heard. He hated criticizing people and making scenes.

At noon Daddy told the Bauser boy he wouldn't be needing him any more. He gave him a big silver dollar, standard pay for a full day's work. He should by rights have paid him fifty cents, or even nothing at all, considering what had happened to the tractor, the plow, and the field, but Daddy was not about to get a reputation as a penny pincher. He handed over the dollar.

That afternoon Daddy put on clean overalls and his second–best hat and went around the neighborhood to inquire sadly for a replacement for Barry Bauser. He thought he'd better try someone who had been in the army or the marines, he said. Young Barry had shaken his trust in the U.S. Navy.

"Janette Blackwell is the author of an unusual cookbook: *Steamin' Down the Tracks with Viola Hockenberry*." "Peace Breaks Out" is an excerpt from that book. Find out more at

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