

## The Linn To The Rescue      By Dorothy French

The very loud noise emitting from a huge vehicle was a welcome sound to snow-bound Walworth residents, especially during the winters of the 1950's through the early 1980's. The noisy culprit was the Linn, a large 1937 truck with tracks on the back, a box for the workers, a huge V-shaped snowplow on the front, and wings on each side. It was powered by a Cummings diesel motor with top speed between 5 – 8 miles per hour.



When the conventional snowplows or bulldozers couldn't open a snow-clogged road, the Linn was called into service. During a September 2008 Walworth Memories program, Dan Keyes, former Highway Superintendent for the Town of Walworth, remembered the January 1966 snowstorm as the worst blizzard here; roads and schools were closed for more than a week, with snow drifts higher than 2<sup>nd</sup> story windows.

Dan said the Linn was good for dirt roads but slipped on asphalt. It took four men to run it: the driver, one man on the front plow, and a wingman on each side of the back. Some of the men who worked on it were Stuart Huntley, Harold Siegel, Johnny Kent, Harold Kessler, and Steve Swadling. According to Dan, Case Anderson (pictured to the left) logged the most hours on the Linn.

Dottie DeMay, an employee of the Town of Walworth Highway Department, recently gave us a picture of Case and a newspaper copy of his obituary. Case (his real name was Cornelius) was a 30-year employee of the town, working as a truck driver and an assistant to the Town Superintendent of Highways. Born in Brighton, Case moved his family to Lincoln where they resided until moving to West Walworth in 1940. He died suddenly on June 18, 1964, at age 63 at his home in West Walworth. We are indebted to Dottie for providing this information.

A December 2, 2011 story in the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle provided more information about the Linn. It was developed in 1917 by Holman Harry Linn and for more than 30 years the Linn Manufacturing Corp. of Morris (Otsego County), NY produced tractors for logging companies, pit miners, dam projects, and rural towns. The tractors also could be equipped with a V-shaped plow attachment that had 16-foot wings capable of plowing a road in a single run. At first, a wing man huddled in a small shed attached to the dump box and raised and lowered the wing plows with control levers. The levers were later operated from the cab. Cleats were attached to the tracks to prevent sliding on the snow and ice-covered roads.



"Our" Linn is now on display in the Tired Iron Tractor Museum in Cuylerville, near Leicester, NY, on Route 20A. The museum is open on weekends mid-June through mid-October. Dan said the plows have been removed. It served its purpose and is now indeed tired iron.

**The Walworth Linn**