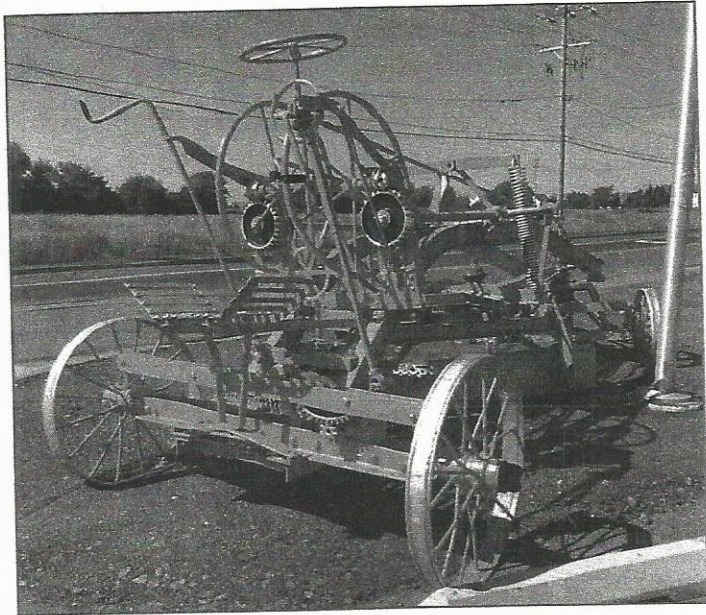


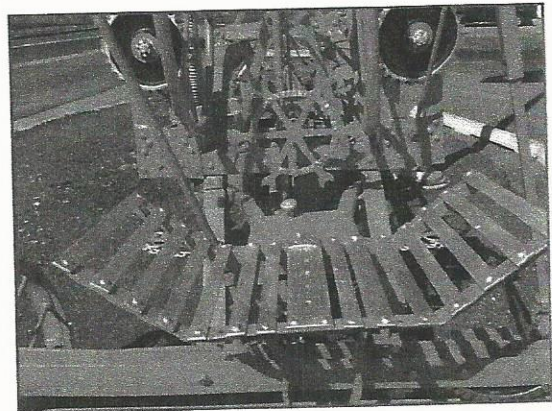
J. D. Adams & Company Indianapolis, Indiana

Contributed by Nancy Hutchins
The origins of J. D. Adams & Company are rooted in 1885 when Joseph D. Adams designed a road grader. Although he had no degree or training in engineering, his machine was a useful invention in the process of road creation and maintenance. By the 1890s he established his own production company to make graders and steel highway bridges, as well as other items. Joseph Adams died in 1924, and in 1929 his sons, William Ray and Roy E Adams, took over the business and formed J. D. Adams & Co., a corporation. The brothers ran it together until 1940 when William Ray Adams died. After 1940, Roy E. Adams continued to control the bulk of the business with the help of the board. On January 1, 1955, J. D. Adams & Company became a division of the LeTourneau-

Westinghouse Company, at that time J. D. Adams & Company stopped producing products and turned into an investment firm. Roy E. Adams continued the company's leadership until his death in September of 1956, at which time family members of the original parent company ceased to be present in its management. In 1958, the investment firm that J. D. Adams & Co. had become merged with State Street Investment Corporation. It became a division of that corporation. As for the manufacturing that J. D. Adams & Co. originally took part in, it became part of another roadway equipment company and the graders that Joseph D. Adams had originally designed and inspired were continued in production by WABCO.



An Adams Leaning Wheel Grader No. 8.



While it appears that most operators stood up while operating this piece of equipment, there are a series of holes in the center slat of the standing platform. I was told, and this is supported by the catalog graphic, that there was a leaf spring bolted to one of those holes with a seat attached. As all of this is made of cast iron, so would have been the seat. Other than the catalog photo, I cannot find a photo of this grader with the seat attached.

Thanks to the Dunham Township Highway Department, Harvard, Illinois. This sits in front of their office building.

