

Littlest Driver Pilots Monster

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PACOLET — Clary Hood of Pacolet is getting an early start on his business career. At 11, he's probably the youngest bulldozer driver in existence.

It doesn't seem possible that this slightly built youngster, who tickles the scales at 60 pounds, could kick a 20-ton 'dozer around.

But to Clary, it's a cinch. He's been driving bulldozers since he was seven years old, learning by sitting on his father's knee. Now he helps his dad on construction jobs, grading building sites with the bulldozer.

Clary, who stands just four feet tall, earns \$5 a week from his father who counts heavily on his ambitious young son during the summer months.

Clary, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hood, is a fifth grader at Pacolet Elementary School

where his favorite subject is arithmetic.

"I want to learn arithmetic so nobody can cheat me out of my money," he explains.

About bulldozer driving, Clary says, "It's hard work, but I like it." He speaks with almost adult authority when he talks about bulldozers.

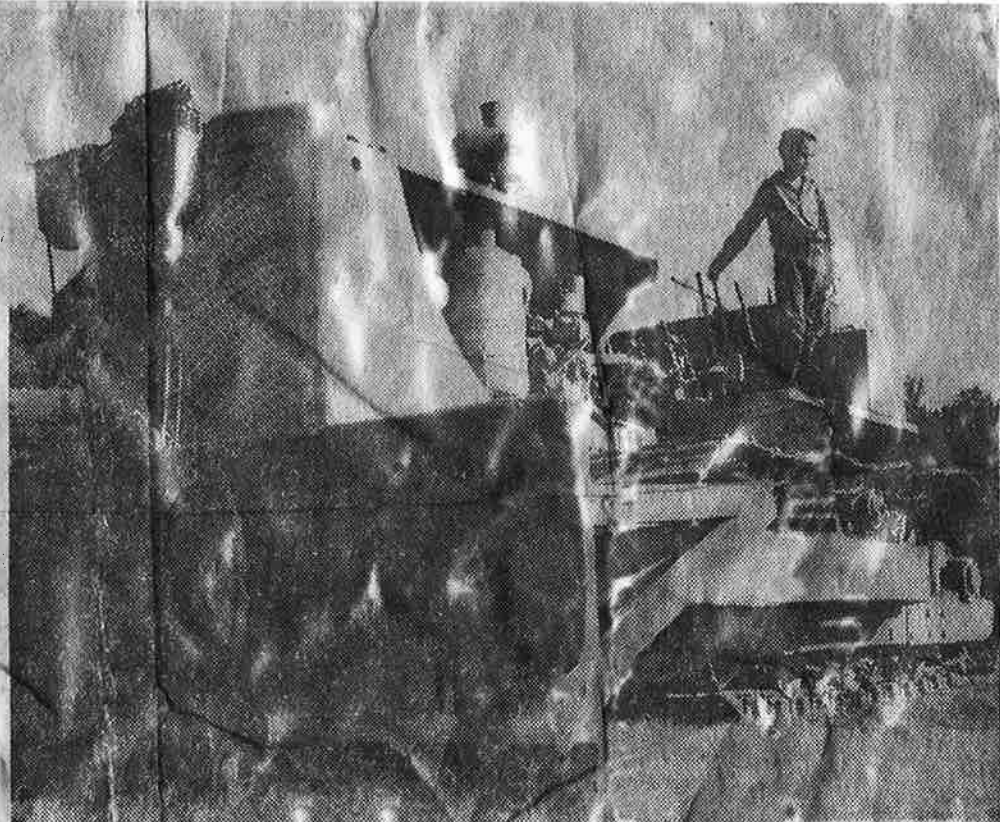
The youth drives both a 15-ton machine and the 20-ton one, with six gears to change on the larger bulldozer which has a two-ton blade.

Clary worked all summer on various construction jobs and a recent project was grading for drive-in eating establishment on Spartanburg highway.

Asked what he plans to do when he grows up, Clary just smiles and says, "Just what I'm doing now."

And he has four years' experience already behind him.

He'll be a real veteran by the time he finishes school.



(Photo by B&B Studio)

CLARY HOOD, BULLDOZER MAN
He's Dwarfed By Huge Machine

