



Electrak[®] NEWS

Garden Tractor

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ROUND OF "PAY BOOSTS" FOR OPEO EMPLOYEES BEGINS MONDAY, OCTOBER 26.

The first of two "take home" pay increases over the next few months for all hourly, nonexempt graded salary and drafting OPEO employees will begin October 26 with a 5¢ per hour cost-of-living adjustment, Ralph W. Bengtson, Manager-Employee Relations, reports.

The pay hike will amount to \$2.00 per week for non-exempt salaried employees. The size of the total c-o-l adjustment is officially determined by a formula keyed to the U. S. government's announcement of the national consumer price index for October. This index is not expected to be released until late November.

Rather than delay payment of the increase until this statistic becomes available and then pay it retroactively, GE management has decided to put the increase into paychecks for all work on and after Oct. 26 without waiting for the official index announcement. This decision to pay the increase without waiting for the October index is based on the fact that the consumer price index has already reached the "trigger point" under the standard arrangement for the maximum 1970 increase of eight cents per hour.

Of course, in the very unlikely event that the October index should drop below this point, the size of the pay increase would be adjusted to conform to the agreement with the Union.

Another boost in "take home" pay is just around the corner. On January 1, GE will begin paying the full cost for employee coverage under the GE Insurance Plan. The cost of employee insurance is 0.9% of an employee's total pay, which will mean that after January 1 all GE employees will receive in effect an additional approximate 1% pay raise.

WHERE WE GONNA' PUT IT?

That question is asked dozens of times each week at Building 702 by supervision and production employees alike.

As OPEO has grown it seems as if our floor space has actually been shrinking. At least two changes, however, are currently underway which will give us more space in the shop.

The Engineering operation, which is located in the "back room" behind the Electrical area, will soon move into Building 803. A portion of the shop will then be extended into the current Engineering area. The move is scheduled to take place within the next few weeks.



A second move which will help reduce crowded conditions is now underway across the aisle from the tractor pack station. A doorway is being cut into the wall directly across from the pack line. As tractors are crated, they each will be placed on individual "rollers" and wheeled directly from the pack line onto waiting trailers at the new dock site. When full, the trailers will deliver the tractors to the warehouse for storage.

At the warehouse the "rollers" will be removed from the tractor and returned to Building 702 for use.

The new procedure will eliminate the need to store completed tractors at Bldg. 702. The change will also free up a fork lift driver for other essential duties.

Both moves, of course, require considerable capital investment expenses on the part of the Company.

TELL YOUR FOREMAN IMMEDIATELY!

Let's say you just bought a new car. You paid \$3,200 for it. You drive it for a week. Then all of a sudden the temperature indicator light comes on during a Sunday drive. No garages are open so you have to leave the car and have it towed into the garage on Monday. You miss half a day's work to have the mechanic tell you an assembler at the factory forgot to tighten down the alternator which caused the fan belt to slip.

On a production line such things happen on occasion. Companies go out of business when they happen too often. The OPEO assembly line is the "guts" of the business. We often feel that the repair section will find our mistakes and correct them. Most of the mistakes they do find -- but not all of them.

One "lemon" tractor means not only one very dissatisfied customer, but often lost sales because that dissatisfied customer tells his friends about his experience, who in turn tell their friends.

An electric tractor is a new concept. Therefore a lot of potential customers are by nature skeptical of buying the tractor. Couple this "fear" with a warning from a friend or neighbor and sales are really hurt.

A new business such as ours -- which has yet to get its feet solidly on the ground -- is in serious danger if we sell bad products. And when the business is in danger, so are all of our jobs.

So, assembler, take note. Do your job the best you can. If you have to get a tractor by your work station which is not as complete as it should be, either tell your foreman immediately, or tag the tractor.

Quality is as much a part of your job as is production. Take the initiative to be quality conscious.