

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Case Torq 224

Loss of a Legacy  
Cecil Pond

Allis Chalmers  
Terra Tiger

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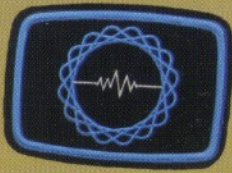
\$5.99

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# THE RARE SEARS LT /36E - "ELECTRIC" POWER



by **George Beckett**  
[www.myelec-traks.com](http://www.myelec-traks.com)



In February of 1970, General Electric introduced the "Elec-Trak" lawn and garden tractor. This new machine was built in response to the "first" energy crisis of the early 70s. Sears & Roebuck also took notice of this new market and introduced an all-electric garden tractor, designated the LT/36E for the 1974 season. By the end of that same year, the decision was made to stop manufacturing this product. It is estimated that less than 500 of the tractors were ever produced.

The LT/36 was actually was more of a rider than a tractor. It was powered by three deep-cycle 12-volt batteries and offered about 75 minutes of mowing time as opposed the large G.E. models that allowed up to four times more. For those with an acre or less of yard to mow it was a nice little machine.

The LT/36E had a Peerless transmission with three forward speeds, one reverse speed and came standard with a 36" dual-bladed mowing deck. Optional attachments included a snow blade and chains, seven cubic-ft. hauling cart, lawn roller, spreader/seeder, aerator and a lawn sweeper. Requiring no gasoline, oil, or plugs it's built-in battery charger plugged into a standard



**ABOVE:**  
The author, George Beckett on his Sears LT/36E.

**BELOW:**  
The dash of the Sears LT/36E.



120-volt outlet and provided a fully-charged machine overnight.

Measuring almost five-feet long and nearly three-feet wide, the Sears LT/36E provided a much more comfortable ride compared to other electric riders on the market such as John Deere and Cub Cadet who had also entered the electric market. Its large 18 x 8.5 Turf-Saver tires additionally assisted in rider comfort. To aid the operator after sundown, Sears provided all of these machines with headlights and tail lights as standard equipment.

The LT/36E had a list price of \$845.00 which was very competitive for that time period. Sears

also included a one-year guarantee on the tractor and an especially strong five-year guarantee on the battery pack with full replacement during the first two years and then pro-rated from there. Considering that it came with batteries, which gave the home owner at least five-years worth of free "fuel," this was a great deal!

Sadly, Sears only offered the LT/36E (also known as the model 917.25790) for one year. I'm sure there are more out there but I know of just three other owners of this rare machine. The familiar Sears Bamboo Tan and Aztec Gold paint job apparently was not enough to entice buyer's confidence. I consider their loss to be our gain! 🍀

Left view of the Sears  
LT/36E

