



**OUTDOOR
POWER EQUIPMENT
OPERATION**

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, CORPORATIONS PARK, BUILDING 702,
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WELCOME TO THE OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT OPERATION

The Outdoor Power Equipment Operation is the home of the revolutionary new Elec-Trak* Compact Tractor. One of the outgrowths of General Electric's research and business studies into electrically propelled vehicles, today's Elec-Trak had its birth nearly four years ago with the development of our first prototype. Since that time, four series of tractors have been developed, analyzed and tested in a program which resulted in the present Elec-Trak. The unit we are now producing and selling around the country is actually our fifth model series.

The Elec-Trak tractor is of significant importance to the General Electric Company not only because it is totally electric, but also because the Company has a deep commitment to product leadership in the many components which make up the tractor. The "off-peak electrical load" which the tractor requires also creates new markets for the many power generation, transmission and distribution products which General Electric manufactures.

But Elec-Trak is more than the first electric garden tractor. It is also the first battery powered vehicle available for general consumer purchase. We look upon it as the real beginning of the new electric vehicle age - - with significant effect on our personal transportation in the future. The Elec-Trak is totally free from pollution and offers unique new safety features to protect both the user and bystander.

This building you are touring today is the final assembly line for the E-15 tractor. It houses the production facilities for our electronic controls and the painting facilities for metal parts. The Outdoor Power Equipment Operation production facilities also include another building



*Trade-mark General Electric Company

here in the Park which is presently being made ready for machining and processing of metal parts and castings as well as storage and handling of raw and in-process materials. Other OPEO manufacturing is scattered throughout the Main Works in Schenectady and in a number of communities in this and bordering states.


The final assembly line here in building 702 begins with the basic subassembly of steering and brake parts to our unique one-piece frame. This is degreased, coated for metal protection, and painted. Partially assembled frames then enter another assembly line where motor, transaxle, brake, main wiring harness and power lift are added. At the end of this line, wheels and tires are installed and the partially completed tractor is then turned over to enter a ramp where we add rear battery box and fenders, preassembled control system housing, instruments, dashboard, steering, and the preassembled front grill and lights.

Next, we bring in from the electrical assembly area the preassembled heart of the Elec-Trak, its unique power control and safety interlock system. This is installed into the control system housing and connected to the previously installed wiring harnesses and other electrical system parts. As tractors roll along, we then add body parts such as the front battery compartment side plates, rear battery box cover and the safety interlock switch which shuts down the tractor power when the operator leaves the seat. The preassembled, built-in battery charger and current limiting system for safe starting are next added to the tractor and connected into the electrical system. New Elec-Traks now roll to completion with the addition of the hood and other minor finishing hardware, making the unit ready for final inspection and test.

Every Elec-Trak is tested through its complete operational cycle by the special "running in" test stations. At the station, the tractor is connected to a 35 volt battery power source and put through all of its operating characteristics which are then recorded on a series of meters and gauges to indicate the unit's performance. We maintain a

record, or log, of every tractor's performance and characteristics to assure dealer and customer satisfaction. At the completion of test, the Elec-Trak rolls right on to its own pallet, is strapped down, a box and plastic cover are added, and it is ready for shipment to outdoor power equipment dealers . . . and ultimately to the new owners of this new clean, quiet, and safer outdoor appliance.

I hope that you will find your day with us interesting and be as proud as we are of your family's part in producing this new revolution in powered vehicles. You are all part of the pioneering effort which may some day have major effects on quieting our streets and neighborhoods while cleaning up the air we breathe. My personal thanks for your help and I hope that you will enjoy your visit with us today.



Bruce Laumeister
Manager
Outdoor Power Equipment Operation

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