

routine cool, wet winters, regard this disease as their number one concern! For us, we should tuck this experience away, and plan on early fall applications of some component of our snowmold control program to prevent future out-

breaks when we begin experiencing such weather patterns again.

And we encountered the usual variety of unusual, localized problems, including some on greens that we will want to examine closely in another year.

Diseases continue to be a problem, and some might be inclined toward pessimism after reading this report. We shouldn't be, for the overall impression of turf health was good. We'll just strive for even better turf in 1985.

RANSOMES INC. CONTINUES EXPANSION

Ransomes Inc., located in Johnson Creek, held ground breaking ceremonies on October 10, 1984 for its third major expansion in the last five years. They are a leading manufacturer of turf care equipment.

In 1979, Ransomes Inc. purchased forty acres of land from the Village of Johnson Creek, Wisconsin and built a factory of 90,000 square feet. A second facility covering 23,000 square feet was erected on the acreage in 1982 to accommodate increased warehousing needs. In October, the ground broken was for an additional 48,000 square feet of manufacturing space.

Ransomes Inc. began in rented facilities in 1972 with three full-time employees. Its growth in the commercial turf care equipment business necessitated a constant increase in employment and facilities. The company is now a



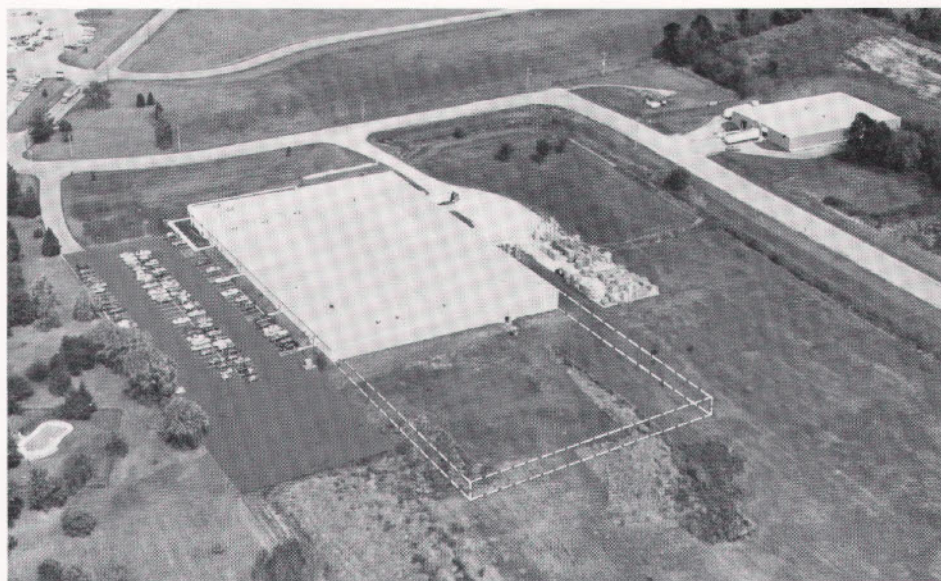
Participating in the ground breaking ceremony are Ransomes' executives Helmut Adam, President; Ron Tvedt, Vice President of Finance and Dick Lehman, Executive Vice President.

leading manufacturer of rotary and reel lawnmowers for golf course, landscape and municipal markets. Products manufactured in Johnson Creek are distributed in all of the U.S. and the provinces of

Canada plus in the Western European and Commonwealth countries.

The new facilities will allow Ransomes to continue its rapid growth in the reel mower market while allowing space for several new products that were developed recently in the rotary mower line. A good portion of the new space will allow housing for a complete inventory of spare parts for both the reel and the rotary units. Expansion will continue to mean more jobs for residents in the Johnson Creek area. In the past year and a half, twenty additional employees have been added to shop and staff positions; and it is expected that upwards of fifty could be utilized under the forward plan for the next four to five years.

The decision to continue the expansion in Wisconsin, despite the very enticing offers of southern states, is based on the very loyal, supportive employees at Ransomes Inc. and the welcome arms of the Johnson Creek community in general.



Aerial view of Ransomes, Inc. facilities at Johnson Creek, Wisconsin. Dotted line indicates the location of the 48,000 square foot manufacturing addition on the south end of the existing plant.