

Closest to pin (#10) - Ray Mertens
Longest putt (#13) - Fred Millies
Longest drive (#17) - Dale Parske

An excellent steak dinner was followed by our featured evening educational speaker, Dr. Wayne Kussow, University of Wisconsin-Madison Professor of Soil Science. Dr. Kussow spoke on the many benefits of fall nitrogen fertilization on golf course turf. Those of us who are currently advocates of fall fertilization are all reinforced in our prac-

tices, while those of us not into nitrogen in the fall now have some food for thought. Everything about this meeting was really great — great golf course, great food and great hospitality! I really think it's fair to say that the day was truly enjoyed by all.

The raffle prize for the evening was especially nice - one year's free use of an E-Z-Go Utility vehicle, provided again this year by Gary Monfre. The winner was John Krutilla.

FIELD DEMONSTRATION— 1986

Ransomes Introduces New Triplex Greensmower

by Monroe S. Miller

When you go to purchase a new triplex for either greens or tees (or nowadays, even fairways!) you'll have another machine to consider. It's called the Ransomes GT (greens triple) and it was officially introduced in Canada last October.

This is a new-from-the-ground up machine, not a remake of the old Hahn! It was designed by Ransomes, Sims & Jeffries of Ipswich, England and for the time being it will be manufactured there. Nevertheless, Johnson Creek had one around the plant and on several Wisconsin golf courses last summer (there was extensive testing all around the country during the mowing season) and a number of us saw it and used it.

I don't know if you could call it revolutionary or not, but it certainly has some new and interesting features. It was designed around a Kubota 570cc 2 cylinder diesel 12 hp engine. No other power plants are available as options. When you do that it seems you get a very balanced looking machine with excellent engine accessibility for maintenance and repair. The engine, by the way, is water-cooled as you would expect and is very quiet.

First look begs the question, "How do I get to the middle unit?" It is actually very easy - trip a lever and the spring loaded seat/foot control assembly lifts right up, as in the photo. You then can literally walk "inside" the machine. The grass catcher comes out easily.

There are some real nice features to the unit - you can remove reel motors from reels and reels from their frame without any tools or oil spills. The mower has the standard backlapping capability. The engines of this machine have made quite extensive use of electronics in controlling the system hydraulics. They've got a digital readout near the operator's right hand that gives the cutting frequency (cuts per meter). You can pre-determine the ration, you like for the mowing and maintain that for every green (or tee). Use of the transport speed does not affect this selection. It's all rather neat.

Although I didn't personally mow with it on my golf course, I did drive it and have seen it several times. Tom Harrison used it for a week and was favorably impressed. He mentioned a need to reduce the turning radius and I believe that changes is coming. They do offer verti-cuts, spikers and 6 blade reels as options.

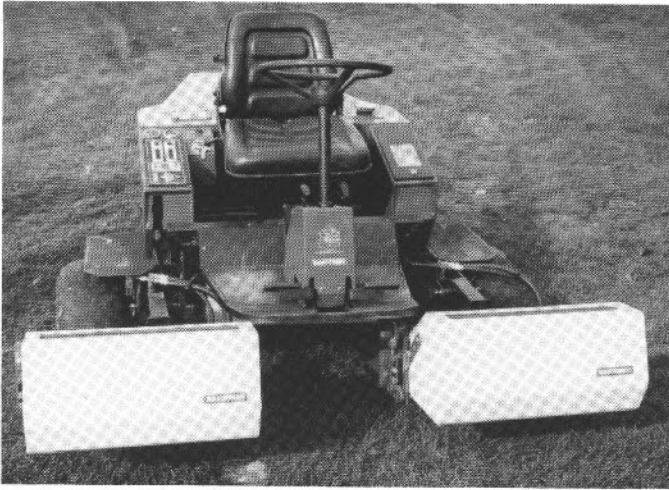
(It seemed to do a good job of moving putting surfaces - it comes equipped with a 9 blade reel.)

My hunch is that the machine will receive a lot of attention in Phoenix and will be extensively demonstrated next summer. Cost figures are not yet available. As Tom said, considering the somewhat limited greens - mover market, "You don't need to build another mousetrap, you have to build a better one."

Ransomes thinks they've done that.

Continued on page 12.

Continued from page 11.



The new Ransomes GT.



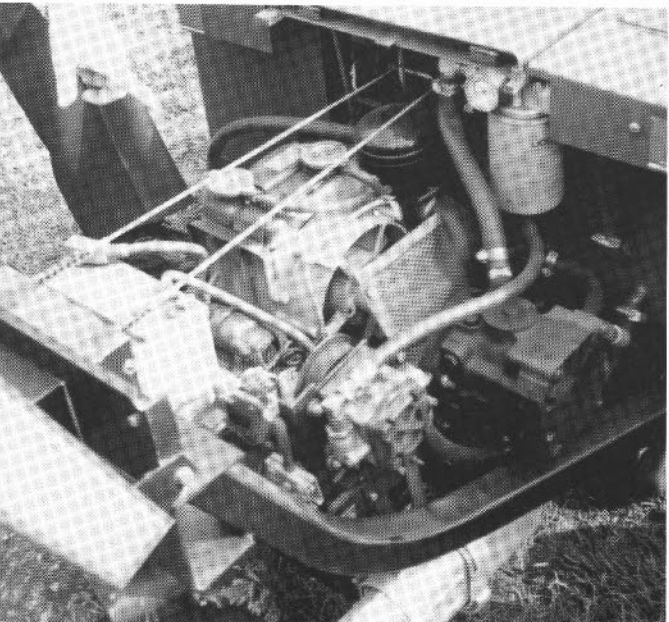
The cutting units are easy to remove.



The middle unit is more accessible than you might guess. Ted Woehrle flew into Madison and stopped in at Maple Bluff for a preview of the machine.



Ted Woehrle and Tom Harrison inspect the finished product at the Bluff.



The Kubota diesel is easy to get at for maintenance.



Another unit to choose from when selecting a greensmower - The Ransomes GT.