

The Silence is Deafening

By Monroe S. Miller

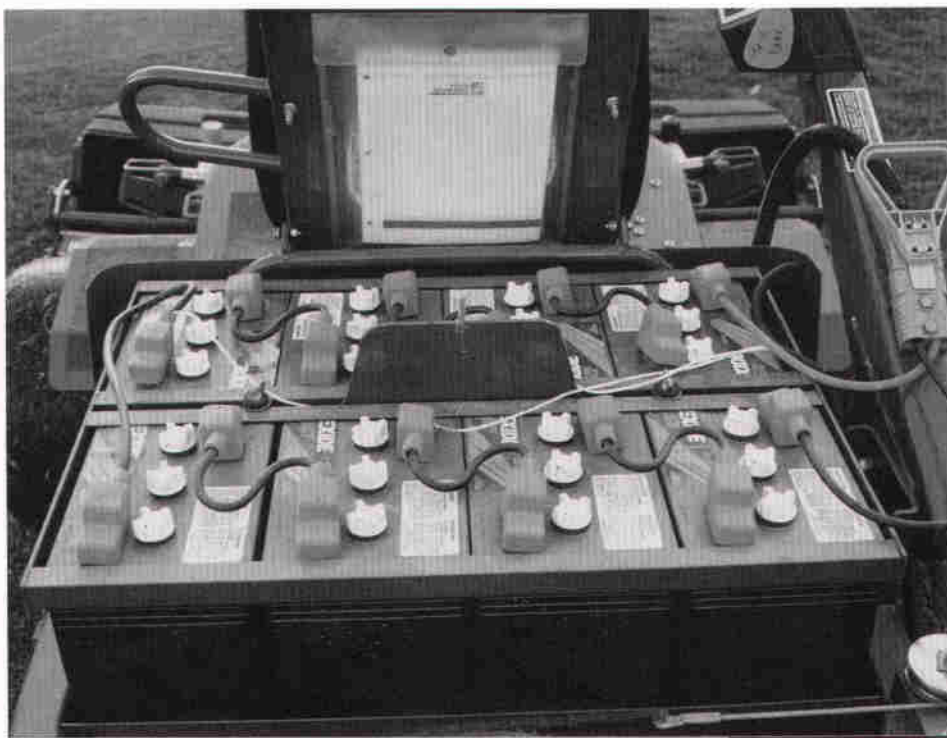
From the GCSAA conference show floor a year and a half ago in Dallas to the distributor showroom today, the Ransome electric greensmower is finding acceptance on America's golf courses. The early success of the machine doesn't surprise me.

We had a demonstration on our course for several days earlier in the season, and we liked it. It seems to me it will be an especially popular machine for golf courses like mine that are surrounded by homes and limited by noise ordinances. The only sound you hear is the entirely pleasant hum of reel blades lightly passing over bed-knives.

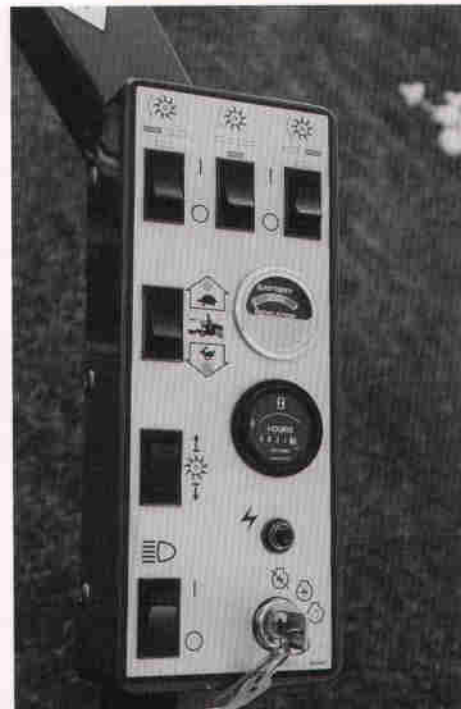
Although the machine did a fine job of cutting, the tractor is the news here. The electric motors on the reels and on the drive assembly eliminate hydraulic oil leaks—three cheers! The most noticeable thing to me was the practice required to operate it. The machine



The simplicity of the machine is very appealing.



The "power plant" of the Ransomes E-Plex.



The controls of the E-Plex are something new!

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free wheels, oversteers a little bit, and requires more finesse than the triplexes I am used to operating. But in a short time, all was well. The machine is only different from others, not worse. And the silence it offers is going to make it better for a lot of golf course superintendents.

We shouldn't be surprised that battery operated mowing equipment is finally making its way into our shops. The electric golf car has been a shining success for a lot of years now. Apparently, manufacturers were waiting for some improved battery technology. I guess that it is available now.

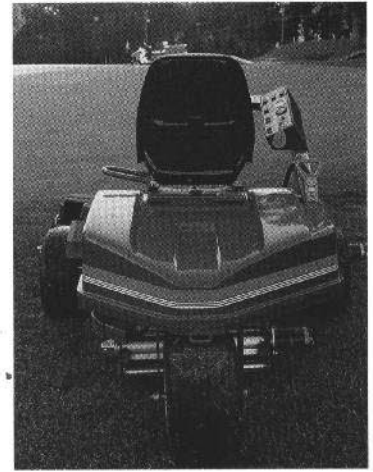
Some manufacturers are ready to surge forward in a big way. In fact, one company executive asked me a month ago, as we toured my shop, "how many gas or diesel engines do you think you will have here ten years from now?"

I have no idea, but he thinks there will be only a few.

Both Tom Harrison and Mike Semler used the Ransome E-Plex, too. Tom says that in two years he will be mow-



A sideview—the operator sits high on the machine.



A look from the back of the machine.

ing greens only with electric greens-mowers. He is trapped in the middle of the city like I am and suffers neighborhood grouching about noise. Already he has made a substantial commitment to electric equipment—all of his utility vehicles are battery operated.

Mike likes the E-Plex as the result of the demonstration at his course.

Bishop's Bay is really strung out, up and down hills, and he was able to mow 24 greens before the machine slowed.

The Ransome E-Plex is the first legitimate offering of electric mowing machinery. Trust me—there will be more to come. 🌿

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