



Government News / Business

Toro Company announced the July 1 sale of the Toro-owned distributorship in Pensacola, Fla.-- Toro Distributing (Gulf Coast) -- to L. F. (Lee) Strebel for an undisclosed sum. According to David T. McLaughlin, president of Toro, this was the first return to private control of a company-owned distribution facility. McLaughlin said the company did not foresee re-selling any of its six other distribution centers.

Labor Secretary, Peter J. Brennan, said the Department found 495,443 alleged violations of job safety and health standards during the more than 145,000 workplace compliance inspections from OSHA's April 1971 effective date through April 1974. OSHA issued 96,289 citations for the violations and proposed penalties totaling \$12,372,853, he added. "Clearly, OSHA's enforcement of this law has had significant impact on the working conditions of American men and women," Brennan said.

American Motors Corporation subsidiary, Wheel Horse Products, has agreed to purchase the assets of General Electric Company's Outdoor Power Equipment operation. G.E.'s plant is located near Schenectady, N. Y., and manufactures and distributes the "Elec-Trak" line of battery-powered lawn and garden tractors, riding mowers and attachments. Wheel Horse will continue the manufacture of the battery-powered products at the New York facility. G. E. and Wheel Horse reached agreement for continuing supply of replacement parts and furnishing of warranty service for Elec-Trak products in the field.

Interstate Commerce Commission told the nation's railroads it felt constrained to suspend their recently-filed proposal for a general freight rate increase of about 10 percent, but that it would let them refile for a general rate increase of that amount subject to conditions designed, the Commission said, "to substantially improve service."

J. I. Case's Outdoor Power Equipment division has expanded its production facilities to Neenah, Wis. General manager of the Case division, W. J. Schlapman, said the firm leased a 30,000 square foot building in Kampo Industrial Park. Reason for expansion? Increased tractor and attachment sales.

U. S. motor-vehicle registrations increased to more than 125 million during 1973. The total, released by the Federal Highway Administration, is 6,530, 686 higher than the 1972 figure.

Agricultural Business Group of Velsicol Chemical Corp. moved its western district office to 1551 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, California. New telephone number is (209) 224-8536.