New in mini-electrics: the multi-task tractor

Versatility is "the word" for this industrial electric tractor, just unveiled by General Electric Company's Outdoor Power Equipment Operation. Equipped with pneumatic tires, the 6-ft long by 3-ft-wide unit is suitable for indoor or outdoor applications. And a variety of quickly-changed attachments and accessories, available as options, can make it a handy multi-task unit, for materials handling, for maintenance, or for grounds care.

Thus, it can be converted to a fork lift or a specialized lifter, to a front-end loader, a vacuumer, a sweeper, a mower, or a snow thrower, or to a mobile maintenance workbench, which includes a power supply for arc welding.

It also can be used as a plug-in power source for tools such as drills, hedge trimmers, lawn edgers, and chain saws. Or it can be used as a tractor to haul (and power) a trash compactor or a personnel carrier.

GE points out that all major attachments have been tailored for convenient use with this tractor. And the tractor complies with all applicable sections of ANSI B56.1—1969, and has received Factory Mutual Engineering Corporation Class E approval—as may be required by OSHA.

GE also reports that "this tractor is in a class equivalent to industrial tow tractors." But its versatility suggests its use by small companies, that have a variety of intermittent service requirements, and jobs in small outside areas.

Its 36-volt power pack (220 amp-hr at 20-hr rate) gives it a continuous drawbar pull up to 900 lb (in lowest gear), and speeds up to 10 mph. And its lead-acid batteries have sufficient "staying power" for a full shift and more, on most applications.

An automatic charger is built-in, and this can be plugged into any 110-volt 60-cycle outlet.