

WESTERN REGION CURTIS J. ALLEY AWARD OF MERIT

Presented by Joseph Solomone, Western Region President

The recipient of the 1990 Curtis J. Alley Award of Merit was born in 1927 in Seward, Nebraska. He was raised on a farm, graduated from Seward High School in 1943, then attended University of Nebraska, College of Agriculture, Graduating in 1947. His first work after college was as County Extension Agent from 1947 to 1951. He left to serve in the United States Air Force for four years, returning to the Extension Service in 1954. He owned and operated a farm supply for two years before relocating to Oregon in 1957 and taking a position as Marion County Extension Agent in Urban Horticulture for Oregon State University. His job scope changed to include Land Use Development and County-wide zoning programs, in addition to horticulture.

In 1963 he took a sabbatical leave to obtain his Master's Degree in Agricultural Extension at Purdue University, then returned to Oregon to continue his career and spend more time on nursery and greenhouse programs.

He became Staff Chairman of Marion County Extension Office in 1974 but retained his program work with nurserymen as well.

In 1984 he became Secretary-Treasurer of IPPS Western Region while doing consulting work in the field of horticulture and teaching classes at a community college on Plant Identification, Nursery Certification, and Landscape Maintenance. Under his guidance, IPPS Western Region experienced outstanding membership growth, sound financial management; the meetings were well-attended as well as informative. Our award winner has very good communication and guidance skills in working with the officers, directors, and committee members. We, especially his fellow officers and committee members, can really appreciate how valuable and indispensable he is as the best ever "Watchdog of the Western Region".

He also serves on the Board of Directors of Berry Botanic Garden in Portland, Oregon, and is an active member of the Native Plant Society; he is also on the advisory board of Cecil & Molly Smith Rhododendron Garden.

In addition to his many career pursuits, he has made time for a photography hobby, (which helps with presentations for teaching and entertainment of various community groups), has 26 years perfect attendance at Keizer, Oregon, Rotary Club, sings with the Salem Madrigal Singers, is an active member of the First United Methodist Church, and plans to publish a Bluhm family history during 1991 after many years of genealogy research and writing.

He and his wife, Mary, of 37 years have 3 adult children and 3 grandchildren.

Please join me in congratulating Wilbur L. Bluhm, winner of this year's Curtis J. Alley Western Region Award of Merit.

**WESTERN REGION LIFETIME
HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARD**

Presented by Joseph Solomone, Western Region President

One of the highest honors an IPPS Region can give is to award one of its members a "Lifetime Honorary Membership". This evening I have the pleasure of making this presentation.

This "Honorary Membership" category is for those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of plant propagation, and who have made equally outstanding contributions to our Society for at least 10 years.

Our Awardee has become a worldwide leader in tissue culture production of woody plants. His research to develop a tissue culture laboratory has set the groundwork for further experimentation and innovation in plant production systems.

Innovation exemplifies his commitment to the future of the nursery industry. He is an excellent reminder that the learning process is not confined within university walls. He has spent a lifetime being inquisitive. If he needed an expert, he found one. He has surrounded himself with strong young minds full of new ideas.

Development of the woody plant tissue culture technology and the tissue culture laboratory at his nursery is an excellent example of his commitment to develop, adapt, and integrate research information into a small business. He enlisted Dr. Wilbur Anderson of Washington State University, in cooperative research that led to a breakthrough in woody plant propagation through tissue culture. He notes that the last 10 years have seen tremendous refinements in the tissue culture process, but believes tissue culture will go up many avenues that have not yet been explored.

He has openly and enthusiastically shared information from his research. Since beginning his tissue culture research and production program in 1964, he has published over 20 research reports in publications ranging from the *IPPS Proceedings* to *Acta Horticulturae*.

He is internationally recognized as a leader in the nursery industry. He has been President of the IPPS Western Region; he has