

MONDAY AFTERNOON AWARDS LUNCHEON

The Awards Luncheon was held in President Ford Room of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

EASTERN REGION RESEARCH GRANT PRESIDENT SMEAL

The 1993 grant was awarded to D. Cameron Smith. The title of his research grant was: "Automated Cutting Orientation Sensor Development."

FELLOW RECIPIENT EASTERN REGION CLAYTON FULLER

The Eastern Region named its fourth class of Fellows at its 43rd Annual Meeting. The new Fellows introduced by Clayton Fuller are:

Dr. Philip L. Carpenter

Dr. Richard A. Jaynes

Edward H. Losely

Dr. Elwin R. Orton, Jr.

Dr. Harold Pellett

AWARD OF MERIT EASTERN REGION

Peter Orum made the following Award of Merit presentation.

When I was asked to present the Award of Merit 1993 here in Grand Rapids I felt honored, and much joy, because of whom I will present it to.

It is customary to present some background about the member who will receive the Award of Merit—and keep you all in suspense as long as possible. I shall attempt to do this.

The Award of Merit is the highest honor and recognition we can bestow upon a member. It is a way of saying "thank you, for all you have done for our Society." It is bestowed upon a member in recognition of what he or she has done for plant propagation and for our Society. Some have over the years done more work in plant propagation while others have done more in Society work. Even though our honoree today has been a successful propagator and grower through much of his life, it is especially his work with people in this Society we are thinking about today.

Our member who we are honoring today was born during the depression. That was a time in history for most people here today. For those that were in it, it was a very tough time. It was a time, my grandfather in Denmark said to me, that the farmers were rationed Hog-Cards which allowed them to sell hogs for \$7 a piece for slaughter and export to England. It was a time when my father told me he would work on farms in Nova Scotia for board and one pack of tobacco a month—in the wintertime. And I am sure our honoree today could tell us stories of a tough, hard-working life on the nursery farm.

Our honoree and the nursery family made it through. The years after the war brought studies and graduation from Michigan State University, which makes

it most appropriate to be here in Michigan not far from East Lansing.

Also back in history there was a time when every able young man was drafted into the Armed Forces for 2 years. Our honoree was no exception. Later, when he returned to nursery work, he managed to get to a few I.P.P.S. meetings. I do not know if he came as a guest for more than 1 year (I suspect he did) but sure am glad the secretary-treasurer did not chase him out! He did become a member way back when it was just the I.P.P.S (they could call it that because of Canada and great ambitions). The split up in regions did not start until a few years later, when the Western Region came into being.

Since then he has been to every conference—I think. I am not sure when I first met him, but it must have been in the late 1960s. I am fairly sure that he just came up to me and said, “Hello, I am (honoree of the day), it’s good to meet you here.” That is how he was/is, he always made people, including new people, feel welcome.

Our honoree spent years in local and state nursery association work and ended up as president of almost everything he became involved in, including civic association work. He must have spent a least 15 years on I.P.P.S. association work—from committees, to board, to vice president and program chairman, and to president. He later became one of our most capable and respected international delegates, helping to bring back lost Eastern Region influence to the International Board. He has worked for the I.P.P.S. in the most dedicated, capable, and unassuming ways. Through it all he and his brother ran a most successful nursery.

He is a man we can depend on. He always finds ways of doing things, of cutting through and getting the task done. He listens, he tries to understand, he involves people, and when he speaks people listen.

I do not know when our honoree got married, but I know that he is still married to the same wonderful lady.

As John Wilde many years ago became my mentor in plant propagation, so did our honoree of today become my mentor in association work.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, you may be well on your way to knowing who our honoree is.

No Eastern Region/I.P.P.S. member is more worthy to receive the 1993 Award of Merit than Chuck Tosovsky!!!