

Wednesday Evening, December 4, 1974

The twenty-fourth annual banquet was held in the El Grande Ballroom of the Hilton Inn, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

On behalf of the society, Mr. Richard Zondag presented the award for the best graduate student paper to Mr. Steven Still. Mr. Al Fordham made the following presentation:

MR. FORDHAM: Professor F.L.S. O'Rourke was scheduled to make this presentation but unfortunately was unable to be here and I have been requested to do so in his stead.

In 1934, the recipient of this year's award was instrumental in organizing and developing a two-year program of study in ornamental horticulture at a well known agricultural college. Class research projects under his guidance involved turf plot trials of grass seed mixtures and fertilizer formulations suitable for the sandy soil of Long Island. These studies led to a blend of grasses known as "Farmingdale Mixture". This, together with a fertilizer formulation, was accepted and marketed through commercial channels.

Under his guidance, propagation studies dealing with subirrigation-1947, synthetic hormones-1948, wounding of cuttings-1949, mist systems-1954, plastic vapor chambers-1957, and capillary watering-1964 were conceived and carried out. This recipient is innovative and has designed original tools and equipment for use in horticultural work. In 1971 he was presented with an award by the American Horticulture Society in recognition of the outstanding manner in which he had taught plant propagation. Since 1954 he has been a member of the International Plant Propagators' Society and evidence of his frequent participation is to be found throughout the Proceedings.

The following statement was provided by Professor F.L.S. (Steve) O'Rourke. "The resume above does not really do justice to this man. His most important contribution to horticulture are the long years of sincere dedication to the teaching of plant propagation and nursery management. Students, well-trained under his guiding head and hand, are fulfilling responsible positions throughout the nation. His inspiration still stimulates them to greater achievements as the years go by. Thus his work and goals are carried on."

I am honored to represent the International Plant Propagators' Society in presenting its Award of Merit to: Harvey Gray, Professor Emeritus, State University Agricultural and Technical College, Farmingdale, New York.

The banquet speaker was Mr. Edward Bunker, President of the Australian Chapter of IPPS, who spoke on "Australia; A Panorama of Horticulture."

Friday Morning, December 6, 1974

LARRY CARVILLE: This portion of this morning's program will be a Ground Cover Symposium and, at this time, I will turn the program over to Mr. Bill Cunningham, who will serve as moderator.

MODERATOR CUNNINGHAM: To begin the program, we have Prof. Giles from the University of Illinois and he will discuss the selection of ground covers.