AWARDS PRESENTATION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Wednesday, November 16, 1988

Distinguished Achievement Medal

James E. Cross

Jim, the horticultural community is indeed fortunate that you forsook Wall Street over 20 years ago and purchased the farm on Eastern Long Island that has become a model container-plant nursery called Environmentals. Your careful and thoughtful approach to the commercial production of outstanding plants is legendary among your professional colleagues. Your self-imposed standards of quality, coupled with the changing array of good and sometimes uncommon plants have established Environmentals as the arbiter of excellence in plant production in the Northeast.

You search high and low for the best cultivars. While planting thousands of seeds, you propagate only those few plants with outstanding characteristics. Indeed, you have upgraded the stock of those retailers and landscapers with whom you work. You even offer a few new species and/or cultivars each year so that progressive plant markets can have something new to offer their regular customers each year.

Beyond your success as a nurseryman, you are one of the most highly-regarded individuals in a field noted for generous and committed people. Your employees' attitudes and behavior suggest that you are a fair and nurturing employer with high standards of performance for yourself and those who work for you. You also have willingly shared your great knowledge about plants, plant propagation and plant production with your fellow professionals.

Planting Fields Arboretum will always be indebted to you for your generous gift of over a thousand heath & heather cultivars which you not only gave but helped to plant. You also mobilized support of The Long Island Nurseryman's Association in procuring needed plants for Planting Fields' Synoptic Shrub Garden, a five acre garden designed and planted as a teaching and study garden for horticulture students and visitors. Currently you are working with horticultural colleagues to educate businesses and homeowners of the need for water conservation in landscaping.

Jim, the field of horticulture has been moved to higher levels by the standard of your horticultural operations. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is pleased to honor these achievements and your generosity by awarding to you its most prestigious award, the Distinguished Achievement Medal.

Certificate of Merit

Abraham Lincoln High School Horticulture/Environmental Science Magnet Program David Kipphut, Coordinator

he Horticulture/Environmental Science Magnet Program of Lincoln High School is one of the finest vocational programs of its kind in the United States. It is a model program of national stature that has been built upon a reputation of quality, practical education. Its programs have been invaluable to the environmental, horticultural and aesthetic well-being of Philadelphia and the greater Delaware Valley.

The Program has been the recipient of the "Take Pride in America Award" presented by the U.S. Department of Interior, a Flower Show Citation from the American Horticultural Society, several Flower Show Ribbons from the Pennsylvania Garden Club Federation, an Award of Merit from Philadelphia Green, and a Commendation from the Swedish Consul for work done at Old Swedes Church. Exhibits produced by the Lincoln Horticultural students win awards annually at the Philadelphia Flower Show.

The Program has grown from a department with one instructor to its present level of six full-time instructors servicing 505 students annually and has been adopted by the Southland Corporation in cooperation with the Philadelphia School District's Adopt-A-School program. Its objectives are to prepare students with basic entry level skills required for employment after graduation or to lead students to college level training following graduation from high school.

Some recent student projects of specific benefit to the City of Philadelphia are the following: A landscape restoration project at the Belmont Mansion in West Park; intense clean-up of the Rhawn Street picnic area in Pennypack Park; landscape improvements to Glen Forde in Northeast Philadelphia; a water quality monitoring program of the Pennypack Creek; clean-up and planting projects at Thomas Mansion. Similar projects are constantly being considered and planned for the future.

David Kipphut, who will receive this award on behalf of Lincoln High School, was the winner of the 1983 Lindenbaum Award for being teacher of the year in the School District of Philadelphia and you were awarded the 1988 Arthur Brown Alumni Achievement Award from Delaware Valley College. Dave has played a vital leadership role in the development of Lincoln's Horticulture program as its Coordinator and it is our sincere pleasure to award the Certificate of Merit of The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to Abraham Lincoln High School Horticulture/Environmental Science Magnet Program.

Certificate of Merit

Willie Mae Bullock

whom you come in contact. You have contributed to the greater Philadelphia community in many significant ways.

In 1975, you organized your block to join the Garden Block program and went on to help your neighborhood develop two vegetable gardens and a wild garden, plant street trees and make a sitting garden called Hope Springs. This year, you have led your neighbors in the development of a new African garden at 20th and Diamond Streets.

You became the first chair of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board and served from 1981 to 1984. You led this Board with dignity and were greatly respected by your peers. You even trained your daughter Sharon Turner to follow in your shoes. You have been lovingly described as "the general" for your expert leadership and motivational skills which have helped the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to revitalize many parts of our city.

You continue your leadership role as chair of the greening efforts in your neighborhood of Susquehanna which has been selected by Philadelphia Green to become PHS's fifth Greene Countrie Towne.

Horticultural activities, however, do not occupy all your time. Other areas of your community also have benefitted from your talents.

You serve as vice chair on the board of directors of the Center for Literacy and also as a board member of "Habitat for Humanity", a housing program for the very poor. You are the mother of three and have a wonderfully supportive husband for all these activities.

Willie Mae, truly you are a leader of people, a leader with dreams and vision. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society salutes you General and is proud to award you its Certificate of Merit.

Certificate of Merit

Richard A. Colbert

Rick, while you may well be the youngest recipient of our Certificate of Merit, you have made an impact on public horticulture and civic beautification far above that of many who have labored in these fields for a lifetime.

In 1978, while working as a part-time summer employee with the City of Newark, Delaware you began a civic beautification program which now includes the planting of more than 25 traffic islands throughout the city, a street tree program and the rejuvenation of several local parks.

This program under your guidance has provided invaluable hands-on-experience to a large number of Delaware horticulture student interns and has come to be regarded as one of the best training programs in the area for keen horticulturists who wish to learn proper techniques for the use of plants, equipment and technology.

You take care to select plants to provide long-season interest with minimum maintenance; you look for plants which can fit into and withstand the harsh urban environment; you have a commitment to design, install, and maintain high interest plantings with the lowest possible maintenance costs.

As Parks Manager for the City of Newark, you have made the public aware of just what good plants properly used in urban settings can do to alleviate the ugliness too prevalent in our unplanned environments. Your reputation has spread rapidly beyond the Delaware Valley through your publications, addresses at professional meetings, and honors awarded you by civic and professional organizations.

Rick, your contributions have been very much in the spirit of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's goals and purposes and we are pleased to award to you the Society's Certificate of Merit.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

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