## **Awards Presentation**

of the

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society



Wednesday, November 14, 1984

## **Distinguished Achievement Medal**

### Mary Louisa Butcher Hill

Polly Hill—you will only settle for the best—the best in azaleas, dogwoods, magnolias, crabapples, clematis and camellias to name just a few of the plants you have worked with to determine the best varieties for the home garden. To use your own words, you are a "grower and a selector," who has received national and international accolades for your steadfast commitment to improving the standards among woody garden plants.

You became a member of the Garden Club of Wilmington in 1951. In 1957 you assumed the management of Barnard's Inn Farm, Martha's Vineyard and began growing *Rhododendron nakabarai* crosses from seed sent to you from Japan. Fifteen years later, after diligent observation and painstaking evaluation of thousands of seedlings, you introduced the first North Tisbury hybrid evergreen azaleas. Today these low-growing cultivars are readily available to gardeners through commercial sources and we have learned of their potential through your writings and lecturing.

At Barnard's Inn Farm Arboretum you and Julian have 3,000 taxa in your care. Collectors continue to send you seeds and you continue to evaluate, introducing only the best, producing more and more cultivars ideally suited to today's style of gardening.

The Garden Club of America awarded you its Distinguished Service Medal, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society its Silver Medal, the American Horticultural Society its Amateur Citation and you have served on the Visiting Committee of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. We are pleased and proud to award you the Society's highest award, the Distinguished Achievement Medal, for your outstanding contributions to the field of horticulture.

### Certificate of Merit

#### F. M. Mooberry

F. M. Mooberry—you are a gardener with a mission—to deepen our appreciation of native plants so we will have a greater concern for, and interest in, their preservation. Your mission led you to transform a cinder-filled parking lot at the Brandywine River Museum into a spectacular display of native plants. You started with a dream, a trowel and a few seeds. Within months you had rallied a corps of volunteers to propagate, plant and beautify the area.

Fund-raising for the garden, and a desire to let visitors and volunteers share in the knowledge you had gained through your experiences with native plants, led you to co-author *Brandywine Wildflowers, Brandywine Trees, Grow Native Shrubs in Your Garden* and *Landscaping with Native Plants.* Winterwine, a program in which volunteers grow native plants from seed in greenhouses at Winterthur then sell them for the joint benefit of Winterthur Museum and Gardens and the Brandywine Conservancy was your idea.

F.M.—you have been an inspiration not only to many at the Brandy-wine Conservancy as coordinator of Horticulture, where you are that organization's only volunteer staff member, but also to other organizations, where you have taught classes or helped in the development of native plant landscaping plans. It is our pleasure to honor you with the Certificate of Merit.

## **Certificate of Merit**

#### Mildred L. and Edward J. Thompson

Millie and Ed Thompson—how would the world's army of begonia lovers make out without you? At The Thompson Begonia Museum, Southampton, Long Island you maintain one of the world's largest begonia collections with 1,600 species and cultivars under your care. Enthusiasts from across the nation come to see your plants and to benefit from your extensive experience in cultivating this genera.

You are always willing to share these experiences through lectures and workshops and also through your writing. *Begonias, The Complete Reference Guide*, published in 1981, shows the depth of your scholarship and is a landmark reference. Ed's beautiful photography and the clear text has made this a volume greatly prized by librarians, professional horticulturists and by home gardeners.

You have also worked with dedication and enthusiasm to establish a national office for the American Begonia Society, providing leadership and inspiration to this organization. Begonia growers in the Delaware Valley frequently make pilgrimages to Southampton to visit your greenhouses. We are delighted you have accepted our invitation to Philadelphia so we may honor you both with our Certificate of Merit.

## **Independence National Historical Park**

To our friends at Independence National Historical Park...

As a landlord you have set a new style and new standards, and we wish all landlords—and landladies—would emulate you.

You have provided us with the most gracious, elegant and well appointed home. For 20 years you have watched over us. Your security guards have visited us regularly in response to our numerous fire alarms, both false and real; your carpenters have fixed our doors, our lintels and our shelves; your painters have wiped away the grime of Walnut Street; your heating and air conditioning specialists have kept us toasty in winter and frosty in summer; your sanitation crews have removed the leftover tickets, the hastily written letters, the love letters from our members and their complaints; and your maintenance men have responded to every sort of problem, including the odd smell that occasionally pervades the second floor. In addition, you have sprayed our fruit trees, our holly hedge and advised us in the maintenance of the 18th century garden.

We admire the overall appearance of the Park and its buildings, home away from home for more than four million visitors each year, and we admire your recent additions, Welcome Park, and the emerging garden at the City Tavern where we have commemorated this anniversary with the planting of a honey locust, donated by J. Franklin Styer Nurseries.

To all our friends at Independence National Historical Park we say thank you on behalf of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society on the occasion of the Society's 20th anniversary as a tenant in the Park.

## The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

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Kathryn Andersen

Richard Lighty

Martha Barron

Erich Meitzner

Cecily Clark

Lois Paul

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Barbara Heckert

Sally Reath

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Ex-officio: Jane Pepper Henry Reichner



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