best results.

MODERATOR BRIGGS: Is it possible to chip bud on root pieces?

JOHN BAKKER: We have done it with roses.

Thursday Evening, December 8, 1988

The Thirty-Eighth Annual Banquet was held in the Shadford/York Rooms of the Omni International Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia.

On behalf of the Society—Eastern Region, a research grant of $1500 was presented to Professor M. A. L. Smith and M. T. McClellan, University of Illinois. Their proposal was titled "Response of Woody Plant Microcuttings to In Vitro and Ex Vitro Rooting Methods."

John McGuire made the following presentation:

AWARD OF MERIT

Our recipient has a varied and productive history. He was one of 12 children, so if he is somewhat rotund today perhaps he can attribute it in part to his need to get to the table fast and to appreciate food. He was a talented athlete as a boy and he played semipro baseball against the likes of Clem Labine. He was also a pool shark. I understand he earned his spending money at this craft while attending Providence College.

His parents hoped he would be a priest, but instead he chose to join his brothers in the nursery business in 1946. Once he chose this path he focused entirely on making his company successful. His accomplishments were many. He joined the International Plant Propagators' Society in 1954 and since that time he has served continuously on Society committees. Today he serves on the Nominating Committee. Our recipient was president of our Region; he has been president of his State Association and the New England Nurserymens' Association, and he represented his state as governor in the American Association of Nurserymen.

Our recipient epitomizes the philosophy of the Society, "to seek and to share." I have seen members seek him out during our annual bus tours so they may sit with him to learn from him. He always takes the time to share his knowledge with members, particularly the younger ones.

He has presented numerous talks at our meetings and he has hosted you when you came to Rhode Island. Perhaps you remember him as one of the stars of our video film on grafting. Our recipient was the one with only one thumb.

Seriously though, we have few members who deserve this award more than our recipient for 1988. He has proven himself on every arena of life. He is and has been an active member of his com-

munity and church. He is a very wealthy man as a result of his endeavors. However, I know he considers his greatest wealth to be his many friends, and they are legions because he has done much for so many.

Ladies and gentlemen, our Award of Merit recipient for 1988 is Leonard Savella.

Friday Morning, December 9, 1988

The Friday morning session convened at 8:00 a.m. with David Schmidt serving as moderator.

VENTILATED HIGH HUMIDITY PROPAGATION

DANIEL C. MILBOCKER

Hampton Roads Agricultural Experiment Station
1444 Diamond Springs Road
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455

Ventilated high humidity propagation research began in 1974 as an effort to improve nursery propagation. Intermittent mist was the method of propagation commonly found in nurseries at that time and still remains in common usage. Losses of cuttings from poor management were common and indicated that improvement was needed. Excessive drenching of the cuttings and the resultant evaporative cooling were contributory, if not the cause of propagation failures. Vigilant care minimized these problems, but in practice, too many nurserymen were not that vigilant. They needed a method of propagation that would reliably produce better results with less care.

The concept of ventilated high humidity propagation was developed by 1978 and the Agritech humidifier was introduced to make it into a workable propagation system. Several other types of humidifying equipment were also introduced but none were based upon the ventilated high humidity concept. The poor performance of some of these installations dampened the enthusiasm for propagation with high humidity. Better humidifiers and closer adherence to the original concept of ventilated high humidity propagation was needed before the full value of this system of propagation would be known.

A humidifier was designed and built for ventilated high humidity propagation by 1983. It was designed to be reliable and efficient at producing large quantities of fog and delivering it in a 30 mph air current. After four years of testing, this humidifier was