



Meritorious Service Award

Presented to

GEORGE W. COSSAIRT

Mr. Cossairt started active participation in Society affairs in 1956. He has presented papers at General Meetings, at Pacific Coast and Great Lakes Region Meetings, and has served several times as Session Leader. He has been a member of the Awards Committee for two bienniums, and received the 40-year Veteran Award in 1976. Mr. Cossairt started with the beet sugar industry in 1935 working part time at the Santa Ana, California plant of the Holly Sugar Corporation. Continuous employment started in 1942, but was interrupted by service in the C.B.I. Theatre in Chemical Warfare. Returning to Santa Ana in 1945, he was transferred to Alvarado to conduct research on ion exchange. He supervised numerous newly-initiated and unique projects for Holly before his 1949 transfer to Tracy as Chief Chemist. In 1952, he became Assistant Superintendent at Hamilton, returning to Alvarado in 1953. As Superintendent of the Carlton, California plant in 1957, he supervised the first years of processing operations based on the thick juice storage concept. In 1963, he was transferred to Hereford, Texas as Superintendent for its first campaign. From his 1964 assignment as Project Engineer in Colorado Springs, he joined Empire State Sugar Company in 1966 as Plant Superintendent. In 1968, he was employed by Michigan Sugar Company as Manager of their Sebewaing factory and moved to the general office at Saginaw in 1970 as Assistant to the General Factory Manager, then in 1973 to Assistant General Factory Manager. He has served on the faculty of the Beet Sugar Institute since 1972, lecturing on a variety of subjects. He has been a contributor to both the second and third editions of "Beet Sugar Technology".



Meritorious Service Award

Presented to

RICHARD J. HECKER

Dr. Hecker has been a member of the Society since 1958, has been a Bylaws Committee member, an Awards Committee member, Program Chairman for the Genetics and Variety Improvement Section, a member of the Publications Committee, has authored or co-authored 25 papers at the ASSBT meetings, and has published 22 in the ASSBT Journal. Following his graduation from Montana State University in 1958, he was awarded a Beet Sugar Development Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship at Colorado State University, majoring in plant genetics. After being awarded a Ph.D. degree in 1964, he became research geneticist for the USDA at the Sugar Beet Research Unit at Salinas, California. In 1965, he returned to Fort Collins as research geneticist, and later became research leader. He has contributed new knowledge on the relative importance of heterosis in sugar beet. He has been a team leader in developing beet quality assay methods and methods of quality improvement. His research revealed that triploid advantage was not universal, rather was a genotype X ploidy level interaction. He is a faculty affiliate and a full member of the Graduate Faculty, Department of Agronomy, Colorado State University, and serves as major professor and research advisor for Ph.D. and M.S. degree students. He has served as coordinator and advisor for trainees and visiting scientists from numerous foreign countries. He has been an author of over 60 scientific publications, developer of 14 registered germplasms, and developer of 22 germplasms released to the beet seed industry. He is a member of numerous professional societies and has been honored with awards from universities and professional societies.



Meritorious Service Award

Presented to

GRANT E. NICHOL

Mr. Nichol has been a member of this Society since 1940. His numerous Society activities include: Chairman, Agriculture Program, twice; Chairman, General Arrangements, twice; Awards Committee member, twice; Board of Directors or its predecessor, called the Advisory Council, five times; author or co-author of six papers in the Journal or proceedings; and Best Paper Award Committee, one term. Mr. Nichol earned his B.S. degree at Michigan State College (now Michigan State University) in 1938. He was awarded a graduate fellowship sponsored by the Farmers and Manufacturers Beet Sugar Association, which permitted him to receive a M.S. degree in 1941. His thesis was in connection with the blackroot disease which was then an uncontrolled deterrent to seedling survival. He was employed by the Great Lakes Sugar Company in April, 1940, where he served as a fieldman in the Blissfield, Michigan area until being drafted into the Army in February, 1943. He served with the 80th Infantry Division in Europe, leaving service with the rank of First Lieutenant in March, 1946, then immediately being employed by the Farmers and Manufacturers Beet Sugar Association as Assistant to the Agricultural Research Director. In November, 1949, he joined Monitor Sugar Company as an agronomist, and was appointed Vice President-Agriculture in September, 1966. Mr. Nichol has been one of the leaders in the Eastern area in promoting planting to final stand and the use of herbicides to reduce and eliminate hand labor in sugar beet production. He has been a leader in promoting the Eastern Regional Meeting of the ASSBT and has served that group in nearly all capacities.



Meritorious Service Award

Presented to

J. E. A. "BOB" RICH

Mr. Rich first became a member of the Society in 1964. Mr. Rich has served as a Session Chairman, a member of the Board of Directors, Chairman of the Awards Committee, author or co-author of six papers for the ASSBT General Meetings, and has published once in the ASSBT Journal. Before moving to the United States in 1963, Mr. Rich spent 13 years with the British Sugar Corporation, starting in May, 1951 at Bury, St. Edmunds as an assistant beet receptionist involved with the receiving and sampling of beets and tare house operations. He was moved to the factory lab for campaigns, where upon he became interested and involved in instruments during the intercampaign. He was promoted to Assistant Control Engineer and transferred to the company's central offices in Peterborough in August, 1957. He became directly involved in instrumentation in all factories during a company modernization program and reported on this program in several papers of which he was either author or co-author. He joined Holly Sugar Corporation at Colorado Springs in 1963 as Instrument Engineer, thus becoming involved in the construction of Holly's Hereford plant and later with instrumentation at all of Holly Sugar Company's plants. In 1966, he was promoted to Eastern District Factory Manager, becoming responsible for Holly's Rocky Mountain plants, and was transferred to California as Western District Factory Manager in 1974, thus becoming responsible for California operations. He was moved to Tracy in July, 1976, one year later being promoted to Assistant General Superintendent. He was promoted to General Superintendent with responsibility of all Holly's beet sugar operations in October, 1980.



Meritorious Service Award

Presented to

EDWARD L. SWIFT

Mr. Swift's membership in the Society dates back to the first biennial meeting held in 1938. He has served the Society as a Director, a Program Session Chairman, a Program Section Chairman, has authored or co-authored seven papers published in the proceedings or the Journal, and has been an author or co-author of papers presented at nearly all of our ASSBT meetings. He began his career with the beet sugar industry in March of 1936 at Rocky Ford, Colorado as a research technician with the American Beet Seed Company, a subsidiary of the American Beet Sugar Company, which subsequently became the American Crystal Sugar Company. The following year, he was moved to California as a Research Agriculturist, where he conducted plot testing and variety development work at both Oxnard and Clarksburg, California. He was transferred to Missoula, Montana as an agriculturist in 1943, and was brought into the general office in Denver five years later as special agriculturist in charge of beet receiving equipment and for migrant labor. In 1951, he was promoted to Manager of the Missoula factory, a position he held until the factory was closed in 1966. He returned to Rocky Ford as Director of Agriculture Research and from there he was moved to the new American Crystal Research Center at Moorhead, Minnesota in 1977 as Director of Research. In 1979, he was promoted to the position of Manager of Seed and Fertilizer Sales, which was his position with the company at the time of his retirement on February 1, 1981. His career with American Crystal Sugar Company spans the quite unusual period of 45 years.



Meritorious Service Award

Presented to

MELFORD ALLAN WOODS

Mr. Wood's membership in the Society dates from 1948. He has served on the Bylaws Committee; Chairman, Chemistry and Factory Operations Section; Board of Directors; twice as Vice President; President for an unusual three-year term; and now as Immediate Past President. He has presented a number of papers at our ASSBT meetings, and has had five papers in the proceedings or Journal of which he has been author or co-author. He received his A.B. degree from the University of Redlands in 1936, and his masters degree from Oregon State University in 1938. He is a registered chemical engineer, State of California. He joined Union Sugar Company in 1940 as Chemical Engineer, following two years of research with Shell Development. He left Union Sugar for a year, returning in 1942 as Plant Engineer and Assistant Superintendent. He was promoted to Plant Superintendent and subsequently, elected Vice President of Operations. Accomplishments during his career include the increasing of the factory capacity at Betteravia from 1,600 tons per day to more than 5,000, concurrently reducing labor approximately 50%. He has devoted his professional career to the beet sugar industry and has many times taken the lead in implementing technological improvements. He is well known for his cooperation and willingness to work for improvement of the industry as a whole. He has been President of the Beet Sugar Development Foundation, of the Santa Maria Rotary Club, served on the Santa Maria joint Union High School Board, and on the Orcutt and Betteravia Elementary School Boards. He is a member of several social and professional clubs and societies.

40-Year Veteran Award

W. Harvey Bingham
Union Sugar Company

Frederick G. Eis
Spreckels Sugar Division/Amstar Corporation

Stephen L. Force
The Great Western Sugar Company

Sylvester M. Heiner
The Amalgamated Sugar Company

Leonard Henderson
The Great Western Sugar Company

I. L. "Red" Johnson
The Great Western Sugar Company

Julian R. Johnson
The Amalgamated Sugar Company

Guy D. Manuel
Spreckels Sugar Division/Amstar Corporation

Tyler W. Miller
The Great Western Sugar Company

Grant E. Nichol
Monitor Sugar Company

Pere A. Reeve
Farmers & Manufacturers Beet Sugar Association

Hanly C. Roe
American Crystal Sugar Company

M. A. Woods
Union Sugar Company