

**American Society
of
Sugar Beet Technologists**

AWARDS
presented at the
26th General Meeting

February 24-27, 1991 Monterey, CA

Honorary Member



ARTHUR E. BENNING

Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
Amalgamated Sugar Company
(deceased)

Arthur E. Benning was born in Sterling, Colorado, on November 8, 1912 to Edna and H. A. Benning. The senior Benning at the time was superintendent of a sugar factor in Sterling. Art Benning grew up in the sugar business. His name and that of the Ogden based Amalgamated Sugar Company are synonymous. Mr. Benning began his career, which spanned 50 years, with the company as a mechanics helper at the Ogden factory in 1933. He worked in all aspects of the business until 1962 when he succeeded his father as President. Under his leadership the factory nearly doubled in size and the firm developed operating technology that increased sugar production. In 1976 he succeeded Marriner S. Eccles as Chairman of the Board of Amalgamated Sugar. Mr. Benning retired in 1982 as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer after a half decade of service. Art Benning graduated from Loomis Preparatory school in Connecticut, and attended Yale University. During WWII he spent two years as a flight instructor at the Primary Flight Training Center in King City, Calif. He was a proficient pilot. Mr. Benning was a member of the Board of Directors of First Security Corporation, Browning Arms, and Utah Power & Light Co., and a trustee of the United States Beet Sugar Association. He was a member and President of the Ogden Golf and Country Club, and a member of the Weber Club, Alta Club, and Cypress Country Club. Mr. Benning was an excellent golfer, winning many tournaments including the Ogden Golf and Country Club Championship. He is survived by his wife, Rosemary Hillard Benning.

Honorary Member



DAVID C. CARTER

President, U. S. Beet Sugar Association
(deceased)

Born in Amarillo, Texas January 9, 1929, David C. Carter was raised in Gallup, New Mexico, where his father was a newspaper publisher. He was a U.S. Air Force Officer and graduated from San Jose State University with a degree in journalism and public relations. Mr. Carter was involved with the sugar industry throughout his business career, working initially with the Western Beet Sugar Producers, Inc., a national public relations organization headquartered in California. Later, he was associated with the California Beet Growers Association and, from 1962 until 1969, he was Director of Public Relations and Assistant to the President to Spreckels Sugar Company in San Francisco. He moved his family to Washington in 1969 when he was named Director of Information and Public Relations of the U.S. Beet Sugar Association, a trade organization representing all the nation's eleven beet sugar processing companies. He was elected President of the Association in 1975. Mr. Carter served as an industry advisor to the U.S. Government during negotiations leading to the International Sugar Agreement in the late 1970's and was named to the Agriculture Technical Advisory Group which is providing assistance to U.S. representatives involved in the current round of international trade negotiations. Mr. Carter served two terms as Chairman of the American Sugar Alliance, a coalition of companies and organizations dedicated to maintaining this country's sweetener producing capability, which he was instrumental in organizing in 1983. He also was President of the New York Sugar Club for the 1989-90 season, and a member of the Washington Commodity Club, the Food Group and the American Society of Association Executives. Other club memberships include the Capitol Hill Club, the National Democratic Club, the National Press Club, the 116 Club and Lakewood Country Club. Survivors include his wife, Alice, of Derwood; two daughters, Kathleen Gorman of Elicott City and Jennifer Tighe of San Francisco; and two grandsons.

Honorary Member



RICHARD J. HECKER
Research Leader, USDA, ARS

Dr. Richard J. Hecker has been a member of the Society since 1958, having devoted his entire research career to enhancing sucrose production potential and disease resistance of sugarbeets. He started life and grew up on a ranch near Sumatra, MT. After several years as a cowboy and then a soldier during the Korean war, he earned his B.S. with honors in agronomy in 1958 at Montana State University. He then was awarded a graduate fellowship by the Beet Sugar Development Foundation for study under Dr. LeRoy Powers in the ARS Sugarbeet Research Lab at Colorado State University. In 1959, he was appointed as a geneticist with the Agricultural Research Service, USDA, and completed his Ph.D. studies in 1964. During 1964-65, he was a research geneticist with ARS Sugarbeet Research at Salinas, CA, then returned to Colorado to direct the ARS sugarbeet genetics research at Colorado State University. During the succeeding years, he continued in sugarbeet research with ARS in cooperation with the sugarbeet industry and with Colorado State University where he was appointed as a Faculty Affiliate. Since 1973, he has been the Research Leader of the ARS Sugarbeet Research Laboratory at Fort Collins. The major scientific contributions of Dr. Hecker have been in sugarbeet germplasm improvement, quantitative genetics, and breeding methods. He has released 49 sugarbeet germplasms, parental lines, and genetic stocks. Rhizoctonia root rot resistant germplasms from his research are in the parentage of all resistant hybrids that are sold in the U.S. During 33 years of Society membership, he has been the author or coauthor of 37 papers published in the Society journal, and has presented 46 scientific papers at Society meetings. His other service to the Society includes committee work on programs, journal publication, awards, and bylaws. Other professional, civic, and social organizations also have benefitted from his dedicated services. For 33 years he has been married to Diane Hecker. They have four adult children.

Honorary Member



DONALD OLDEMEYER

Manager of Seed Production and Development
Amalgamated Sugar Company
(Retired)

Dr. Donald Oldemeyer initially joined the Society in 1956 and served on the Board of Directors for four biennia. During his membership he served as Vice President (1983-84) and President (1985-86) of the Society. In addition, he has served on numerous committees assisting the Society. Don received the Society's Meritorious Service Award in 1978. He has co-authored several papers in the ASSBT Journal and has presented numerous papers at the biennial meetings as well as serving as section and session leaders. He began his career in the beet sugar industry in 1954 at Nyssa, Oregon, as Assistant Plant Breeder for the Amalgamated Sugar Company. Don was Manager of Seed Production and Development upon his retirement in 1988. During Don's employment, he and brother Bob were part of the only brother act with doctorates in the sugar industry. His activities included the conversion of the commercial varieties to monogerm, the development of curly top resistant varieties, general agronomic research with sugarbeets, studies of storage losses and beet seed production. During his tenure with Amalgamated Sugar Company, Don served on the Board of Directors as well as several terms as Chairman for the Beet Sugar Development Foundation, West Coast Beet Seed Company and Western Seed Production Corporation. Don was reared on a sugarbeet farm near Brush in northeastern Colorado and enrolled at Colorado State University in 1942. His education was interrupted while serving in the U.S. Army, after which he returned to receive a B.S. degree in Agronomy in 1948. He earned a Ph.D. in 1952 from Pennsylvania State University with a major in agronomy and a minor in botany, following which he joined the staff at the Irrigation Branch Experiment Station at Prosser, Washington as Assistant Agronomist. He has been an active member in numerous professional societies as well as being active in local government having served as City Mayor.

Honorary Member



ROBERT K. OLDEMEYER

Director of Operations
Hilleshog Mono-Hy, Inc.
(Retired)

Dr. Robert K. Oldemeyer has been an active member of the Society since 1952, and has served on numerous committees and as Chairman of the Genetic and Variety Improvement section. He has authored or coauthored many papers published in the ASSBT Journal. He received the Meritorious Service Award from the Society in 1976. Bob officially began work with sugar beets in June of 1950 when he joined the staff of the Agricultural Experiment Station of the Great Western Sugar Co. working with Dr. H. E. Brewbaker and H. L. Bush. Bob has held numerous positions during his service to the sugar beet industry. He began his career as a plant breeder and retired in 1989 as Director of Operations and a member of the Board of Directors with Hilleshog Mono-Hy, Inc. Bob, along with brother Don, a part of the brother act, gave a total of 73 years of service to the sugar industry. Bob's activities have included converting the G. W. varieties to monogerm, initiating a hybrid breeding program in sugar beets, processing research, seed processing. He also was instrumental in the sale of the Mono-Hy breeding, production, and sales division to Hilleshog AB. He has served the industry in many ways including the Board of Directors of the Beet Sugar Development Foundation, West Coast Beet Seed Company, and Western Seed Production Corporation. He was a faculty affiliate with Colorado State University, and a charter member of the Grower- G.W. Joint Research Committee. Bob was born and raised on an irrigated farm near Brush, Colorado, where the principal crops were sugar beets and fat lambs. He received his B.S. degree in Agronomy from Colorado State University in 1947 after serving with the US Army in Germany during World War II. He earned his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Wisconsin majoring in Genetics with a minor in Plant Pathology. He is a member of several social, professional, and honorary societies and is active at local and national levels of his church.

Meritorious Service Awards**Phil B. Brimhall**

Mr. Brimhall began work in sugarbeets in Montana, moved to the Great Western Research Station at Longmont, Colorado in 1964, and then to Fremont, Ohio, in 1965 as research agronomist. His work there centered on herbicide development and promotion of their use by growers. He also became proficient in other agronomic research work. In 1972 he was transferred back to Longmont to work on seed quality. It was there that he developed the original technique for applying coloring (Day Glo paint pigment) to the seedcoat so that monogerm seeds could be found easily in the soil. In 1973 he was hired by Michigan Sugar Company as Chief Agronomist to assist the field staff in matters of herbicide usage, planting-to-stand and soil fertility. He also has directed the analysis lab where growers' and research samples are analyzed. From 1973, he also has served as Assistant to the Vice President of Agriculture, or General Agricultural Manager. He currently serves on the Research Committee for West Coast Beet Seed Company, and as a technical advisor to the seed processing plant. His current research concerns development of a soil nitrate test and nitrogen fertilizer recommendations for growers in Michigan and Ohio.

Devon L. Doney

Dr. Doney, a member of the ASSBT since 1966, has served as chairman of the Physiology section (1987) and numerous other sessions, organized and chaired two ASSBT symposia ("Physiological Selection in Sugarbeet" in 1978 and "Beta Germplasm" in 1983), and served as chairman of the Sugarbeet Crop Advisory Committee from 1983 to present. He has authored or co-authored 24 papers presented at ASSBT meetings, many of which have been published in the Journal of Sugar Beet Research. His career in sugarbeets started at a young age on his father's farm in southeastern Idaho. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Agronomy (1960) and Master's Degree in Genetics (1961) at Utah State University. His Ph.D. in Plant Breeding was awarded by Cornell University (1964). Dr. Doney worked for Libby, McNeil and Libby as a tomato breeder in northwestern Ohio (1964-1965) prior to accepting employment with the USDA/ARS as a Sugarbeet Research Geneticist in 1966. His first assignment was in nematode resistance research at Salinas, California. In 1970, he transferred to Logan, Utah, with an assignment in physiological genetics. When the Logan unit closed in 1983, he transferred to Fargo, North Dakota. Dr. Doney

has conducted and assumed research leadership in nematode resistance, potential alcohol fuel production, physiological genetics, and germplasm collection, preservation, evaluation and enhancement of sugarbeet. His research findings have been published in over 100 technical and popular publications. Significant findings have included the cellular cause for the negative relationship between root yield and sucrose concentration, physiology of root heterosis, breeding methods, and early selection techniques. He is the national leader in *Beta* germplasm resources and serves as USDA/ARS representative on international *Beta* germplasm activities. Dr. Doney has been instrumental in the collection (three international expeditions), preservation, and evaluation of wild *Beta* germplasm.

Robert H. Helmerick

Dr. Robert H. Helmerick initially joined the American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists in 1958. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors and on numerous committees. Bob has chaired the Genetics and Variety Improvement Section and acted as session leader many times. He has published eleven papers in the Journal and has presented many papers at the meetings and coauthored a chapter on sugar beet breeding in "Progress in Plant Breeding - 1". Bob was born and raised in the Big Horn Basin of Northern Wyoming. Upon graduating from high school he served in the Mid-East and European theater during World War II. He received a B.S. degree from the University of Wyoming in Agronomy in 1950. He was employed as a Vocational Ag. Instructor and by the Soil Conservation Service prior to receiving his M.S. degree from University of Wyoming in 1954. Bob received his Ph.D. degree from Nebraska in 1958 under the direction of Dr. John Lennquist. He started his career in the sugar beet industry in 1958 with the American Crystal Sugar Company in Rocky Ford, Colorado, as a plant breeder. Bob joined Holly Sugar Corporation at Sheridan, Wyoming, in 1964, and moved to Great Western Sugar Company, Longmont, Colorado, in 1982 prior to their purchase by Hilleshog AB. During his tenure in the sugar industry he served as plant breeder; Assistant Director of Agricultural Research; Manager, Seed Development; and currently as Senior Plant Breeder, Hilleshog Mono-Hy, Inc., at Longmont, Colorado. His activities have involved primarily plant breeding; he has been responsible for the development of commercial varieties that have been utilized throughout North America. He also has been active in seed production as well as other facets of sugar beet research.

Robert T. Lewellen

Dr. Lewellen, a member of the ASSBT since 1966, has served on the Board of Directors and has been a member and chairman of the Nominations Committee and a member of the Publications Committee. He currently is Associate Editor for Genetics and Germplasm Enhancement for the Journal of Sugar Beet Research. He has authored or co-authored 35 papers presented at ASSBT meetings and has published papers in the Journal. In all, he has authored or co-authored 74 scientific papers. Dr. Lewellen was raised on a dry land cattle and grain ranch in eastern Oregon. Following graduation from Oregon State University (1962), he accepted a fellowship at Montana State University and in 1966 received a Ph.D. in Genetics. In 1965, he worked as a research agronomist for the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station. Dr. Lewellen joined USDA-ARS's Sugarbeet Research group at Salinas in 1966. His sugarbeet research has focused on breeding for host-plant resistance, and breeding methods. He conceived and developed sugarbeet populations that permitted all aspects of population improvement and could be integrated into a comprehensive breeding program. He has been involved with the development and release of many germplasm and parental lines of sugarbeet that have contributed to commercial hybrids or have been useful as sources of disease resistance.

Garry A. Smith

Dr. Smith began his federal research career in 1968 as a geneticist with the USDA-ARS at Canal Point, Florida, where he was responsible for breeding improvements in sugarcane. In 1969, he transferred to Fort Collins, Colorado, and began research on sugarbeet genetics and disease resistance breeding. While at Fort Collins, he also taught advanced graduate level classes in quantitative inheritance at Colorado State University, and advised and directed the graduate programs of students, many of whom are now actively engaged in plant breeding research in the USA and several foreign countries. Since 1988 he has served as Research Leader for sugarbeet research at the USDA-ARS Northern Crop Science Laboratory at North Dakota State University. Dr. Smith's research has focused on disease resistance, inheritance determination, and breeding methodology in sugarbeet. He was the first to elucidate the inheritance pattern and number of genes controlling Cercospora leaf spot resistance in sugarbeet and also the type of gene action controlling non-sucrose constituents in *Beta vulgaris*. His efforts have resulted in the development and release of 28 disease-resistant breeding lines including both diploid (2x) and

tetraploid(4x) *Cercospora* leaf spot resistant lines and their cytoplasmic male-sterile equivalents. He has published over 80 scientific papers, five book chapters, and 160 technical reports. His five book chapters provide students, researchers, and industry a wide range of information on sugar crops, sugarbeet genetics and breeding. The books in which these chapters are written are distributed internationally, and include specific information on marker genes, hybridization procedures, variability, techniques for genotype evaluation, trends in sugar crop production, and future prospects for cultivar development research. Dr. Smith has been a member of the ASSBT since 1969, serving as Section Chairman, Associate Editor, Nominating Committee member, and By-laws Committee member.

J. Clair Theurer

Dr. Theurer began his research career in 1962 at Logan, Utah, as a research geneticist with the USDA-Agricultural Research Service, and since 1983 has been located at East Lansing, Michigan. He has developed and released several sources of germplasm with characteristics that were valuable to the sugarbeet industry such as curly top resistance, high sugar percentage, and smooth "soil free" taproot. He has determined the inheritance of several genetic markers, worked towards enlarging our understanding of the nine linkage groups of sugarbeet, and has established one of the best collections of sugarbeet genetic mutants and markers that we have today. His expertise has enlarged our understanding of the variability and breeding behavior of cytoplasmic male sterility, and with colleagues he has found new sources of CMS that are molecularly different from the source commonly used today in developing hybrid varieties. He organized and directed a series of national field trials that determined the potential and the merit of using fodder beets and sugarbeets as a feedstock to make alcohol fuel. In addition, he has been a member of a research team that has contributed to our understanding of sugarbeet growth, photosynthate partitioning, nitrogen X variety relationships, root maggot resistance, and root storage. Dr. Theurer currently serves as Research Leader at the USDA/ARS research station at East Lansing, Michigan.

Irvin O. Skoyen (Deceased)

Irvin O. Skoyen became a member of the Society in 1958. He served as Session Chairman and authored or coauthored more than 34 papers presented at the ASSBT meetings. He earned a

B.S. in Agronomy (1955) and an M.S. in Plant Breeding (1957) from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Mr. Skoyen was a Research Agronomist with the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Station at Salinas, CA, from 1957 until his death in 1991. He was a vital member of a research team whose responsibility emphasized the development of breeding lines, varietal components and hybrid cultivars. His accomplishments in research, involving scientific research papers and the release of sugarbeet germplasm, earned him great respect in the agronomic and sugarbeet industries. In 1968, he was a member of a research team that received the USDA Superior Service Award. In addition to ASSBT, he was a member of the American Society of Agronomy. He contributed to the development of widely used parental lines such as C562, C563, C546, C13, C17, C36, C01, C31, C46, etc. As a research and field plot agronomist, he was intimately involved with producing and testing large numbers of hybrid combinations. From these, commercial hybrid cultivars US H7, HS H8, US H9, US H10, and US H11 resulted. In addition, Irv had interest and expertise in the safe use of agricultural chemicals. He was involved with the testing of minor use pesticides (IR-4 Project) and was a certified Pest Control Advisor.

40 Year Veteran Awards

Elmer A. Bonetti, Holly Sugar Corporation

Louis R. Garcia, Jr., Holly Sugar Corporation

David F. Johns, Holly Sugar Corporation

J. E. A. Rich, Holly Sugar Corporation

Robert N. Sanborn, Monitor Sugar Company

H. Paul Swenson, American Crystal Sugar Company

Robert E. Taylor, Holly Sugar Corporation

Dr. Albert Ulrich, University of California, Berkeley

LaVar Varney, American Crystal Sugar Company

John A. Worrall, Holly Sugar Corporation

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