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## **WESTERN REGION 1982 MERIT AWARD RECIPIENT\***

PRESENTED BY STAN SORENSEN

The Western Region's 1982 Award of Merit is presented to the recipient to recognize his outstanding contribution to his community, the IPPS and the field of plant propagation.

He was a charter member of the Western Region of the International Plant Propagators' Society which held its first meeting in Asilomar, California, in 1960. He was elected to the Executive Committee of the Western Region in 1972. He became president of the Region in 1976-1977 and President of the International Board in 1981-1982.

In 1962 he was elected to the City Council of Fremont, California. He served as mayor for 5 of the 16 years he was on the City Council. During that time the new city grew from 25,000 to over 110,000 in population. He was a driving force in establishing a beautiful 400-acre park in the center of the community, complete with lake and swim lagoon. He worked to save three homes and gardens of historical consequence; namely, the Vallejo Adobe at the old California Nursery, the Joseph Shinn Home, and the Patterson Ranch home and gardens near Coyote Hills. He served on the Alameda Creek-Coyote Hills Joint Agency which guided the development of a 900-acre park on San Francisco Bay, and 14 miles of hiking and equestrian trails along the creeks.

During those 16 years he also served on the regional boards of the San Francisco bay area. He was president of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), and a member of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, two planning agencies of the Bay Area.

Born in El Centro, California in 1921 he attended public schools in Piedmont, Sausalito, and Mill Valley, California, then moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for high school. He attended Stanford University, graduating in political science in 1943.

He was then assigned to active duty in the navy. He

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\* Presented at the IPPS Western Region's 1982 banquet.

served during World War II for 15 months in the Atlantic and 15 months in the Pacific, aboard destroyer escorts. After WWII, he and his wife lived in Mill Valley, California, where he worked in San Francisco for a wholesale paper house. Five years and three children later he was recalled to the Navy during the Korean War. He completed 22 years of service in the naval reserve and retired with rank of Commander.

At the end of his Korean tour of duty he went to Piru, California, to assist in his father's beginning nursery business. In the early 1950's the dwarf citrus nursery moved to Mission San Jose, Alameda County, California to be free of the orange quick decline virus quarantine.

Their twig grafting system was developed at UCLA by Dr. F.F. Halma. The nursery was one of the early ones to employ the intermittent mist system of propagation and growing in containers. They propagate 30 citrus cultivars which are sold to retail nurseries throughout California and Hawaii, plus shipments in smaller quantities by air parcel post throughout the United States.

Although our recipient has had no formal training in horticulture he has constantly worked to improve propagating techniques and the quality of his plants. The development of citrus as a popular plant in the home gardens of Californians in the 1960's and 1970's was encouraged by his nursery. The "How to Grow" booklet they publish has won a national award from the American Association of Nurserymen. Garden talks, radio and T.V. shows, magazine articles, nursery tours by gardeners, students, and plant propagators all attest to his interest in educating both his customers and the general public.

Donald F. Dillon, a real propagator, is the proud father of three children, attentive uncle of seven nieces, and doting grandfather of six grandchildren!

It is indeed an honor and a privilege to present to such a man the Western Region's highest award: the Award of Merit.