

MODERATOR HILLENMEYER: Thank you, Mr. Bailey.

Our next speaker for this morning is Mr. J. Peter Vermeulen of John Vermeulen & Sons, Inc., Neshanic Station, New Jersey, who will talk on the subject Communication in Propagation. Peter Vermeulen!

## COMMUNICATION IN PROPAGATION

J. PETER VERMEULEN  
*John Vermeulen and Sons, Inc.*  
*Neshanic Station, New Jersey*

Notwithstanding all of the brain power represented by this assembly today I think it safe to say that none of us has ever had a completely original thought. I hasten to add that by original I mean one that is totally independent of something previously spoken, written or accomplished. Never before has a society been so progressive or so dependent upon progressiveness. Our very survival depends on the continuous satisfaction of an endless and prodigious hunger for education, innovation, instigation, participation. In this we have a responsibility to future generations as well. Henry Ward Beecher has said, "We should so live and labor in our time that what came to us as seed may go to the next generation as blossom, and what came to us as blossom may go to them as fruit. This is what we mean by progress."

One of the most important and far reaching ingredients of progress is communication. Why even to retain the status quo, we must communicate and communicate well at that. Everything that we say or do or think to do is linked through communication to something said or done previously.

Communication is easy to define but difficult to picture in all of its many aspects. It can be quite simple such as the cocked eyebrow or shy smile or the cheery "Hi" of the kid across the street. Similarly it can be intricately complex as Telestar or the Project Mercury Tracking system or the huge automatic data processing machines.

What has all this to do with propagation? Simply stated it is this. Without communication, progress in propagation is dead. And it appears on the surface, that our communication is lacking.

Back in September of this year there was distributed to the membership a request and application form for participation in this Speaker-Exhibitor Symposium. Toward the end of October I received from Dr. Kelley a letter stating that the response to his request was poor. He asked that, since I had participated once before, I might consent to do so again. The thought occurred to me then that individually, as members of a fine organization, we were lacking in one of the essentials and that the essential in this instance is participation, or in a broad sense, communication. What can we do about it?

We are formed into a society and meeting here today because of the farsightedness of a much smaller group of men. These men had a common interest and a common quality. Their interest was propa-

gation. Their quality was a recognition of the need for and a desire to do something about better communication; talking about and freely exchanging their thoughts, ideas, opinions, accomplishments and even failures. These men did meet; they did talk and exchange their ideas; and most important they did act. As a result we enjoy today this wonderful, enriching and inspiring organization. Through the years — and this is the 12th meeting — we have grown and we have progressed. But are we doing all we can? Is each one of us giving our full support? Are we all communicating fully and sufficiently?

What do we now know about the very plants we produce or the techniques we use to produce them? If we but honestly face the facts we realize that it is still very little. We have the potential in this society of ours to create a chain reaction that will completely revolutionize plant propagation as we know it today. In our own society we have a homogeneous-heterogeneous group. By this I mean that while on one hand we have common interests there are at the same time understandable differences in both physical and mental capabilities as well as differences in our levels of exposure to propagation procedures and practices. Yet each and everyone of us has something to contribute to each other. Each and everyone of us can benefit from learning what the other fellow knows or thinks.

It is vitally important to us individually and collectively that we all give serious thought to just how we can best exchange and distribute among our members every bit of information that will further our common efforts. It may be desirable and opportune to now ask for suggestions and comments. However I do not believe the program affords us the luxury of the amount of time that this would require. Instead then may I suggest as fuel for your thinking caps and for your further consideration:

1. That an appropriate paper be required of each new member at the time of his or her acceptance.
2. That notwithstanding present attendance requirements, appropriate papers or program or project participation be required of all members periodically thereafter.
3. That a committee be appointed to determine a suitable time schedule for receipt of such papers and further to edit and economically reproduce and distribute them to the membership.
4. That the executive committee consider and explore the need for and recommend new procedures for better communication.
5. That future Speaker-Exhibitor Symposiums be comprised of a certain number of the most appropriate papers submitted during the previous years. It would be preferable, but not required, to have the author present his own paper. The paper should not be previously circulated.

I thank you for your attention. We hope for your participation. I close with the following:

To weigh our fate, communicate;  
Matriculate; participate;  
Educate and elevate;

Create, collate and circulate;  
Relate, debate, articulate;  
Perpetrate; illuminate;  
Generate, not imitate;  
Innovate, then instigate;  
Stimulate and propagate;  
Reiterate — COMMUNICATE!

MODERATOR HILLENMEYER: Thank you. I hope your words will be heeded well by the members.

Our next speaker this morning is Mr. James S. Wells, James S. Wells Nursery, Inc., Red Bank, New Jersey. Mr. Wells is to speak on New Mistig Equipment from England.

### **NEW MISTING EQUIPMENT FROM ENGLAND**

JAMES S. WELLS

*James S. Wells Nursery, Inc.  
Red Bank, New Jersey*

I would like to ask first that the "gentleman" who lifted one of my jets from the back table for closer inspection please return it. There were two there yesterday. There is only one now and I didn't put it in my pocket.

I went home to England this summer for the first time in 11 years and I didn't go to look at nurseries; I just went to relax. I went to the Mat Penny Company in France to look at their misting system because I had heard such a lot about it. Harvey Templeton will know we have become a little disillusioned with the electronic leaf because of the problem of maintaining it in good order. We are using a timeclock and have been so for a number of years.

I must own that I was very impressed by the appearance of the Mat Penny equipment. It is in the back of the room. I will very briefly run through the points which they consider make it superior.

First of all, the jet which some of you may have seen is ruggedly constructed. It is of the Florida type, a baffle type. It should be adjusted with a feeler gauge to one ten thousandths of an inch. It works at low or high pressures. It works very well at low pressures. It has a very easily removable strainer on the bottom. It is available in four different orifices which provides different coverage on benches and beds.

The control equipment is a transistorized unit. There are no tubes and it operates on AC current which they tell me is superior to DC current because it reduces the buildup of minerals on the leaf. The leaf is a plastic block with two carbon electrodes set in it. They say the easiest and simplest way to clean it is just take the leaf and run it for a second or so on an emory wheel. This you can do many, many times before the block is worn down and they have had them in continuous use in that way for about seven years.