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International President Smith, International Board members, Eastern Region President Orum, Eastern Region Board members, Society members and guests, and Charter members of the International Plant Propagators' Society.

It is a high honor to speak to you today celebrating our Society's 40th Anniversary. All of the words I will share with you today will not appear in the 40th Proceedings. Eastern Region Editor Heuser has a paper covering the salient points of my comments, but I plan to do a bit of digression during this discourse.

For the edification of those of you who do not know me, I have served as I.P.P.S. Historian since 1971, and have had the high honor of sitting on the International Board since 1970. I have proudly attended all Board Meetings since that date.

I attended my first meeting, in this great city, in 1954 as a guest of my mentor, Hugh Steavenson, and in 1955 with quaking knees presented my first paper. I appear on Secretary John Wott's records as an Eastern Region member since 1957. I have been extremely fortunate to attend every Eastern Regional Meeting since 1954.

I was asked, in 1985, by David Byers to write a history of our beloved Society. I decided to write this in four chapters, each covering a decade. Yesterday, I submitted Chapter IV, entitled "The Society Today" to the International Board, along with an epilogue. I wish to share with you the words in the preface of this discourse at this time.

PREFACE

In 1985, David Byers, Huntsville, Alabama, asked the author if he could put down on paper some personal remembrances of the Society. The author's hope was to have this partially achieved by October, 1987, for the International Board meeting, presided by President Byers.

While the author is indebted to his countless friends in the Society, the words, and indeed philosophy, are his own. My memory was refreshed by re-reading business meeting minutes from past Proceedings and reviewing past issues of *The Plant Propagator*.

The words are mine, with no collaboration from any Society member. They are presented to show the growth of the Society, which neatly fits into the age-old quest, "A search for knowledge". I also like to believe the words exemplify our motto—"To Seek and Share".

I would like to express my appreciation to my employers for the utilization of a professional secretarial staff who carefully deciphered my handwritten notes.

Every effort has been made to be fair in my personal evaluations and observations. Obviously, in certain instances, I had to make some assumptions as to individual ideology and I trust those assumptions were germane.

I fervently hope these words, in some small way, further strengthen the powerful bond of the International Plant Propagators' Society.

It is interesting to note that our G.B.&I. Region has published Chapter I ("In The Beginning. .") and Chapter II ("A Truly International Society") in a publication which they present to new members. Hopefully, by April, 1991, the entire history will appear in a format such as I am displaying to you. The Charter members with us today will vividly remember, as I do, the meetings from 1951 through 1958 held at the Wade Park Manor Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio. As I look back on those meetings it is interesting to recall that when one went down to the coffee shop for breakfast our academic friends were in one corner of the room and our commercial members, growers if you will, in another area of the room. Fortunately, that day is no longer with us. It is also with deep joy that I recall a few gentlemen sitting in the very front row of the meeting room attentively listening to each speaker's words and making the appropriate comments. If you will allow your memory to go back with me, I recall the faces of Hoogendoorn, Van Hof, Vermeulen, Nordine, etc.. As a young novice propagator, I wondered why some of the questions were being asked. After a few years it dawned on me that the person asking the question was merely trying to clear up a comment or point that the speaker made that the majority of us in the room just did not understand. This was a very, very pleasant memory.

The Society progressed in the Cleveland years and backing off just a bit, the Organizational Committee for what was then named The Plant Propagators' Society was held in July 1951 in Detroit in conjunction with the AAN Annual Convention.

The first Organizational meeting was held in Cleveland, and the officers elected for 1951 were our own Jim Wells—President, L. C. Chadwick—Vice-President and the late Ed Scanlon as Secretary-Treasurer. The first meeting held on November 5-8, 1951, had 75 people in attendance and they were duly noted as Charter members of this august Society.

In 1959 a very revolutionary step was taken and the meeting was moved from Cleveland to Philadelphia. I can vividly remember the comments from many people stating that no one will attend a meeting historically held in one city and moved around the country. As an up-shot of this, there were 227 people in attendance at that

Philadelphia meeting. This meeting was also historic in that the grand sum of \$1,000 was allocated for four Eastern Region members to travel westward and see if there would be a possibility of the establishment of a Western Region. That Region as we know it today, had its birthday in 1960 at a Conference held in Asilomar, California, with Don Hartman serving as President.

At that meeting, spearheaded by Richard Fillmore, the philosophy of the Society was explained to the newly founded Region. It is interesting to note that the keynote address at this conference was presented by James Wells.

As we progress through history, the 1961 meeting of the Eastern Region was held in Cincinnati and at that meeting the name International Plant Propagators' Society was approved. I might say that this was not without debate and argument and it was marvelous to have the insight from people like Chadwick, Fillmore, Hill, Steavenson, Wells, explaining why the international view of our Society is so important. Unfortunately, a few members left the meeting hall and never returned. We moved into the early sixties with the first International Board Meeting held in California with one of the most dynamic, loyal, members this Society has ever had serving as Vice-President, and that person was Bill Snyder. Snyder attended every IPPS Board Meeting until his retirement in March of 1986.

The input that Bill Snyder and our respected International Editor, Hudson Hartmann gave to each consecutive Board over the years is beyond comparison. You see, good people, one of the problems that any international organization encounters is a different ideology of a Chairman and quite often Board members. Being from various areas throughout the world, they are concerned with a specific problem for their specific region. The guidance of Snyder over the years, and Hudson with his quiet, professional manner soothed many a "savage" breast.

As we moved on to Regional development, G.B.&I. (Great Britain and Ireland) was created in September of 1966 due to the marvelous visionary and missionary endeavors of Jim Wells. Again, Jim was there to offer his guidance and to offer opening remarks at their initial meeting. Some of you in the room fondly recall, as I do, the International Board Meeting with the G.B.&I. Region in 1973 aboard an airplane, which Jim Wells was able to have a rhododendron grower pilot for us. I am sure that is one of the reasons the plane was so smooth over the Atlantic and back home again!

Wells then went on to New Zealand, at that time a Chapter, which became a Region in September of 1972, and Australia in October of 1973. The final Region to join our Society was the Southern Region in December of 1976 and their keynote address was delivered by Bill Curtis, a marvelous gentleman who spearheaded

much Western Region activity, as well as Jim Wells. Their topic was "The IPPS—What is it". The Southern Region, as have all Regions, has produced many dynamic people, not the least the indubitable Charlie Parkerson who Chaired the IPPS Board Meeting in Scotland in 1983.

Over the years of Eastern Region involvement, as well as International involvement, what have I seen? Probably the single vivid point in my mind is the autonomy given today to Regions which was not existent a decade ago. This autonomy has strengthened the Society as a whole. The seeking and sharing of dreams of many people in this room have been realized and are with us today. Our Society is prestigious, and professional, due to Regional Editors working under the guidance of Dr. Hudson Hartmann, our International Editor.

Our "Black Bible" as many of my friends like to refer to our Proceedings, is in every horticultural library in the world. The overview for growth down the road, hopefully prior to the year 2,000, is overwhelming. With the recent European developments there is now an opening for Regions in areas here-to-fore thought impossible, such as: Bulgaria, Romania, Italy, Japan, Israel, etc. The rotation of the International Board visiting Regions is so valuable and so important. I believe that the representatives from the three Regions outside the North American continent would heartily agree with this. The G.B.&I. Region International Board Meeting with Mike Dunnett Chairing was outstanding, as was the meeting the year previous in New Zealand with Ruth Henderson as President and two years prior in Australia with our friends from that Region. We are stronger every year and the motto of Seeking and Sharing which was, incidentally, Peter Vermeulen's contribution to our Society, is a motto that is adhered to and not a group of words that are meaningless.

Marvelous, marvelous memories, and I'm sure our Charter members to whom this is dedicated can look back in their minds and see those faces who aren't with us today, but they certainly are in spirit. Remembering not only the people that presented papers at the various conferences, but the loyal Society members that were there, present when we needed them and offering advice in their manner, either at breakfast, coffee break or whatever. The Society's strength is in its members, and the members each year adding more and more to the art and science of plant propagation is indescribable.

It has been a delight to share these few words with you and, without question, the International Plant Propagators' Society is on a level by itself. Nothing in the field of horticulture can approach it, from a practical stand point at any rate, and it has reached that pinnacle due to people such as yourselves sitting in this room today at noon. Charter members, I salute you, God bless you all.