

NEW YORK FRUIT QUARTERLY

Editorial

Congratulations to George Lamont!

The optimist sees the glass as half full. The pessimist sees the glass as half empty. George Lamont sees an opportunity to design a new glass to satisfy both!

George Lamont is one of New York State's hidden treasures. We have all been fortunate to have been among the lucky people who have witnessed a truly unique man work his trade on a daily basis. Recently, on November 10th of this year, George Lamont was recognized as one of the outstanding alumni of the Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Cornell has had a very special relationship with George who received his degree in 1957. In the years since, he has done both himself and the University proud as he set about on his life's work.

Ever since George left the Cornell campus, he has been on a mission to "find his cheese" as he would say. Over the last half century George has always been able to somehow wade through the maze of business opportunities that were presented to him on a daily basis. George has from time to time started down one of those dead end streets but he has always had a sixth sense that directed him back to that misdirected fork in the road to begin anew. In each case he has learned and grown from such misguided journeys. In his own way he then was inspired to build roadblocks to prevent others from entering. George has truly been a pioneer, always being one of the first to seek more clarity to new concepts that would enrich his industry.

When I think back on the years I have known George, I am struck by the very calm yet confident nature of the man. George Lamont does not lead by forcing an issue but by example. His life is filled with examples of taking a concept, shaping it and mastering it. To have orchard plantings in 1957 of less than 50 trees per acre to his current plantings of 2000 trees per acre, is an example of George leading by example. He never fell into the fatal flaw of believing any idea is forever. To George an idea is for today and the exciting thing is that tomorrow brings new ones.

I could not begin to fill this single page with the individual accomplishments of this man. I choose, however, to look at what he has accomplished thus far. I am certain his sheet of victories is still open for new additions. What is so intriguing about George is his passion for agriculture and his relentless desire to participate in, and contribute to its evolution. I suppose George does not seem to tire because he truly believes in what he is doing. He has the unassuming charm that allows him to lead us all towards making farming such a rewarding vocation. He has been blessed obviously with gifts from his creator and has used these gifts not only to advance his lot in life but that of his industry. I believe what we wish to salute George for is his inspiration to us all. He has proven that we all can improve and move ahead in this exiting and challenging world of agriculture. George, for this very simple lesson, we both congratulate you and thank you.

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FRONT COVER: A collection of George Lamont photos that were used at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni Awards Program.

BACK COVER: The pumping system, piping system and spray pattern of an experimental fixed-spray pesticide application system.

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