

## Grape Breeders' Conference, 1969

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The fifth biennial North American Grape Breeders' Conference was held at the Fruit substation, University of Arkansas, Clarksville, Arkansas, on July 31 and August 1, 1969. Dr. James Moore, breeder, and other staff of the Horticulture Department of the University of Arkansas were hosts for the conference. Membership of this group consists of professional and amateur breeders and growers of American-type grapes. Eleven states were represented at the conference.

The conference began with a warm welcome from Dr. E. M. Cralley, Director of the Arkansas Agriculture

Experiment Stations, Dr. G. A. Bradley, Head of the Horticulture Department, and C. J. Westbrook, Horticulturist in charge of the Clarksville Substation. About an hour was allotted to examine a collection of fruit of some of the better second test selections and varieties. The remainder of the morning was spent in the vineyards observing variety collections, selections and new seedlings. A delicious catfish luncheon was prepared by Mr. Westbrook and his crew.

Tours were conducted at the Post Wineries and vineyards during the afternoon. The group then moved to



Fig. 1. Participants in the 1969 Grape Conference in Clarksville, Arkansas: were as follows: Front row (left to right)—George Remaily, Earl Allen, Dan Carroll, Jim Moore, H. J. Sefick, Ken Hanson, George Bradley, Roy Rom, Elvin Brown, G. A. Slack, Gerald Brown; back row—Ray Dyck, Linda Dyck, V. H. Underwood, Bill Nesbitt, John McGrew, Fred Hough, John Mortensen, John Einset, W. D. Wylie, E. M. Cralley, J. F. Brooks, Hollis Bowen, Carlos Balerdi, L. A. Kelley, R. M. Gilmer, R. T. Dunstan, R. P. Lane, Al Wiederkehr, B. O. Fry, Aubrey Owen, James Held, R. M. Peterson and Matt Post.

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the Wiederkehr Winery and observed their operations and facilities. After a sumptuous dinner at the Wiederkehr Chalet Suisse, observations were made in the Wiederkehr vineyards. The group returned to the winery for illustrated reports on the grape and wine industry of Europe presented by Mr. H. J. Sefick, South Carolina, Dr. John Einset, New York, and Mr. Al Wiederkehr, Arkansas.

Reports were given by the participants on the morning of the second day. Those giving reports on their research programs were J. R. McGrew,

Beltsville, Maryland; R. P. Lane, Georgia; J. A. Mortensen, Florida; H. J. Sefick, South Carolina; Carlos Balerdi, Florida; D. E. Carroll, North Carolina; B. O. Fry, Georgia; R. T. Dunstan, Florida; and W. B. Nesbitt, North Carolina.

The final afternoon was spent touring the grape breeding vineyards at the Clarksville substation. The group accepted the invitation to hold the 1971 Conference at Raleigh, North Carolina, with Dr. W. B. Nesbitt as host breeder.

### **Splendour Apple from New Zealand**

The following information about a New Zealand seedling apple selection named 'Splendour' was taken from a news release distributed by the Committee on Agriculture of the U. S. House of Representatives, dated May 8, 1969.

'Splendour' is a high quality late apple which was recommended for commercial planting in New Zealand in 1960 by D. W. McKenzie, of the New Zealand Fruit Research Orchard at Havelock North. Stark Bros. bought the propagating rights in 1962. It is now being tested in Italy, France and the U. S.

According to McKenzie, 'Splendour' is a bright red, attractive apple. The skin is thin. Flesh is deep yellow, much like Golden Delicious, but firmer in texture, and very crisp and juicy, with a very sweet flavor. It has excellent dessert quality, and handles and stores well. 'Splendour' is ready for harvest just ahead of Rome Beauty, and appears to have excellent shelf life after storage. Consumer reaction to it has been excellent. In addition, the tree is precocious and bears heavily.

Roger Way, of the N. Y. Agr. Exp. Station at Geneva, was quoted to

the effect that 'Splendour' has shown good fruit and tree characteristics at Geneva, that it bore at three years of age, and shows promise as a dual-purpose variety. The release also says that growers and horticulturists in certain central-western apple states and Washington are interested in 'Splendour' for its high dessert and keeping quality.

### **Stearns Lothrop Davenport**

Stearns Lothrop Davenport, has for many years been prominent among those in this country who seek to find and preserve living trees of the old apple varieties of the world. The editor of "Food Marketing in New England" tells about Davenport's efforts along this line in the Summer, 1969 issue of that publication.

Davenport, now 83 years of age, still maintains a collection, with the financial support of the Worcester County Horticultural Society, of some 100 old varieties of apples, gathered from wherever he could find them over the past 35 years or so. He has sold and shipped over 12,000 scions throughout the world. A list of available varieties may be obtained on request from the Worcester County Hort. Society, 30 Elm St., Worcester, Mass. 01608.