

Grape Breeders' Conference, 1967

J. N. MOORE*

The fourth biennial North American Grape Breeders' Conference was held at Geneva, New York on September 19-20, 1967. Dr. John Einset and the staff of the Pomology Department at Geneva were hosts for the confer-

ence. Membership of this group consists of professional and amateur breeders of American-type grapes. Twelve states and Ontario were represented at the Conference.

Following a welcome address by



Figure 1. Participants in Grape Breeders' Conference held at Geneva, New York, September 19-20, 1967. *Front row, left to right:* L. H. Stover, Leesburg, Fla.; Harry Meyer, Amer. Refrig. Transit Co., Harlington, Tex.; Dan Carroll, N. C. Agr. Exp. Sta.; Ken Hansen, Fruit Exp. Sta., Missouri; O. A. Bradt, Hort. Exp. Sta., Vineland, Ontario; Aubrey Owen, Gay, Georgia; W. B. Nesbitt, N. C. Agr. Exp. Sta.; G. Jelenkovic, N. J. Agr. Exp. Sta.; Keith Kimball, N. Y. Agr. Exp. Sta.; H. J. Sefick, S. Car. Agr. Exp. Sta.; Richard Wellington, N. Y. Agr. Exp. Sta. (retired). *Second row, left to right:* John Einset, N. Y. Agr. Exp. Sta.; D. H. Scott, USDA, Beltsville, Md.; Carlos Belerdi, Fla. Agr. Exp. Sta.; J. N. Moore, Ark. Agr. Exp. Sta.; J. R. McGrew, USDA, Beltsville, Md.; L. F. Hough, N. J. Agr. Exp. Sta.; Vassil Georgiev, N. J. Agr. Exp. Sta.; Ray Dyck, N. J. Agr. Exp. Sta.; Don Ourecky, N. Y. Agr. Exp. Sta.; J. R. Van Haarlam, Hort. Exp. Sta., Vineland, Ontario. *Third row, left to right:* George Remailly, Doylestown, Pa.; John Watson, N. Y. Agr. Exp. Sta.; V. H. Underwood, N. C. Agr. Exp. Sta.; Gus Tehrani; Willard Robinson, N. Y. Agr. Exp. Sta.; R. M. Peterson, S. Dak. Agr. Exp. Sta.; L. A. Kelley, Yellville, Ark.; Bruce Barritt, N. Y. Agr. Exp. Sta.; John Mortensen, Fla. Agr. Exp. Sta.; B. O. Fry, Ga. Agr. Exp. Sta.

*Dept. of Hort., Agr. Exp. Station, Fayetteville, Ark.

Dr. Donald Barton, Director of the Geneva Experiment station, the first morning was spent in Jordan Hall examining a large collection of fruit of selections and varieties. After lunch at the Food Science building, Dr. Willard Robinson discussed the grape research program being conducted in the Food Science Department at Geneva. In the afternoon, the group toured the vineyards of the New York State Experiment Station and observed variety collections, selections, and new seedlings. A banquet was held in the evening and was followed by a film on mechanical grape harvesting.

Reports were given by participants on the morning of the second day. Reports on grape breeding progress were given by John Mortensen, Flor-

ida; W. B. Nesbitt, North Carolina; J. N. Moore, Arkansas; Harry Meyer, Texas; B. O. Fry, Georgia; and Aubrey Owen, Georgia. A report on breeding for disease resistance was presented by J. R. McGrew, Beltsville, Maryland, and a report on the use of growth regulators on grapes was given by Bruce Barritt, New York. Deran Markarian, Michigan, discussed the evaluation of grape varieties for cold hardiness.

The final afternoon of the Conference was spent touring the commercial Finger Lakes district. The group was taken on a tour through the Gold Seal Winery, and visited some of the Gold Seal vineyards.

The group elected to hold the 1969 Conference at Urbana, Illinois, with Dr. H. C. Barrett in charge of arrangements.

The Wilder Medal

WESLEY P. JUDKINS*

The Wilder Medal is one of the oldest and most distinguished awards for service in the field of horticulture. It was established in 1873 by the American Pomological Society in honor of Marshall Pinckney Wilder, the illustrious founder and first President of the organization. The award consists of a beautifully engraved medal which is usually presented to the recipient at the banquet at the annual meeting of the society.

The prestige of the medal may be appreciated more fully if the eminence of its creator is likewise understood. Marshal P. Wilder was born in New Hampshire in 1798 and died in Boston in 1886. During his 88 years he was a successful business man and developed a deep interest in horticulture. He was one of the founders of

the American Pomological Society in 1852. He served as its first president and retained this office until his death 24 years later.

During the period when Mr. Wilder was active in the American Pomological Society the major emphasis in horticulture was the testing and selection of fruit varieties which were to become the foundation for the commercial industry in the United States. Very few native fruits were available which were acceptable for commercial production. As a result, many European varieties were brought to this country for testing and hybridizing with native species. The large numbers of hybrids from controlled breeding, as well as the many seedlings which originated spontaneously, had to be evaluated if the best selec-

*Professor, Dept. of Horticulture, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va.; and Chairman of A.P.S. Wilder Award Committee.