

## THE RETIREMENT OF A NURSERYMAN'S NURSERYMAN

### BOB EVANS

On June 2nd, 1982 Bob Evans retired from his position as Nursery Manger with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. He will best be remembered by his colleagues for his innovative style and dedication to the nursery profession. Bob always accepted a challenge. With his superiors, he constantly tested the system; with his peers he continuously questioned their rationale. In addition, he was never satisfied with the status quo. Just because some nursery operation has been done the same way for years didn't mean there wasn't a better way. Bob applied his own methods and suggestions to solve his own and others' problems. He was constantly working on and testing new ideas.

Bob is a graduate of the New York State Ranger School and the College of Forestry in Syracuse. He began his career as a forester in 1952. In 1955 he was named Nursery Manager at the Lowville nursery. He was transferred to the Saratoga nursery in 1971 when the Lowville operation was phased out. Bob's innovative approach to nursery management was put to good use at Saratoga. By 1972 mechanical harvesting replaced manual labour in the field but created problems in the culling room. Bob designed and built a new culling room from scratch to accommodate the seedlings from the harvester. Working with Dr. Ralph Nyland from Syracuse, a cold storage system was developed to facilitate overwinter storage of nursery stock. Later Bob modified the system to use ambient outside air during the cold winter months to reduce energy consumption in the storage.

Bob was enjoyable to be around. He always added something to our meetings, especially at the brag sessions. Sometimes his pranks caused others consternation (just ask Joe Hill), but we always ended our meeting on a positive note. Bob could be provocative; he would make you think, and he has helped greatly to foster the closeness and bond that has grown up among northeastern nurserymen.

It was Bob's unique style that made him a special friend to those who knew him. In retirement, Bob will accept the challenge of producing seedlings for profit and we are sure he will continue to introduce new techniques to nursery management.

We wish Bob well in his new endeavors and hope he will keep in touch with us in the northeast.