

In Memoriam

The California Weed Science Society has lost three of its long time members this past year. They were remembered during the annual Business Lunch on January 29, 2008 with a few words by President Carl Bell and a Moment of Silence. These honored friends were:

James Dewlen

James was the 17th President of CWSS, serving in that office in 1965. He spent most of his career working in Sales for AmChem, one of the principal manufacturers of pesticides at the time. His territory included much of northern California. One of his most important contributions to California agriculture was the development of Brominal (bromoxynil) for control of broadleaf weeds in small grains. This product is still in use throughout California and the west. For CWSS, James was responsible for starting the concurrent sessions; this allowed members to attend different sessions that provide information on subjects within their scope of interest. James Dewlen passed away in late 2007 at the age of 90. One of his friends, Harry Agamalian remembered James as someone that truly did not have an enemy in the world.

Neil Harold Phillips, Sr. October 31, 1933 – January 9, 2008

Neil passed away on January 9, 2008 at age 74. His tall figure was a fixture at CWSS meetings for decades. He was a third generation Californian and lived on a farm first owned by his grandparents in Patterson, near Modesto. Neil was a Korean War Veteran and a skilled marksman during his service to our country. When his service was finished, he started his agricultural career working for the USDA as a cannery inspector. Eventually he became a Pest Control Advisor and farmer. He had retired in September 2007 after spending his later years as an agricultural consultant and an expert witness. Neil is survived by his college sweetheart and wife of 51 years, Carolyn Goodhue Phillips, four children (including his son Neil, Jr. who is a PCA and attends the annual CWSS conference), and eleven grandchildren.

Ken Dunster
November 2, 1936 – January 18, 2007



As our sister organization, the Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) said, “Ken was one of the giants of weed science in the western United States.” In addition to being a past President of CWSS, Ken was also past President of WSWS, the Montana Weed Control Association, and the Western Plant Growth Regulator Conference. He was an honorary member of CWSS and received the Award ???. He was also a Fellow of WSWS and received their Outstanding Weed Scientist Award in 1992. His career in agriculture started in 1960 doing research and development for AmChem. He worked with James Dewlen on Brominal for grains, but also on herbicide and plant growth regulator development for alfalfa, grains, sugarbeets, and lots of vegetables. His work took him throughout the west, from Colorado to Hawaii. His value is evidenced by the fact that he survived and prospered during the mergers of AmChem into Union-Carbide, and then into Phone-Poulenc. But many of us remember Ken as a friend, adviser, and mentor. He started and

guided the careers of several weed scientists working in California today. Colleagues like Ken Dunster are hard to replace.

Ken was posthumously given the CWSS Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award by a grateful society at this year’s 60th annual conference.