Lifetime membership plaques were presented to 14 members of the Arborists Association of New Jersey. The following have completed 25 years membership with the association which was founded in 1937. They are: (l-r) Harry J. Banker, Harold Kendall, Everett Dyer, Leonard Anderson, Ernest Ricca, Harry L. Birdsall, Howard Voorhees, Walter Whitham, George Henningsen, Andres Knof and Paul Vadnais. Not present are Stanley Knof, Victor Brydon and Charles L. Post.

A deadly disease of elm trees, called elm phloem necrosis, has been found for the first time in New Jersey, according to Dr. Paul V. V. Weber, chief, bureau of plant pathology, New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

The disease has long been prevalent throughout the South and Midwest and in 1971 was discovered in Pennsylvania and New York State. It is caused by a mycoplasm, an organism smaller than a bacteria, but somewhat larger than most viruses. The mycoplasm is believed to be spread from tree to tree by the white-banded elm leafhopper or by root graft transmission when the roots of a diseased and a nearby healthy tree join by natural grafting of the roots.

As the foliage droops, curls and wilts, it takes on a rather uniform yellow color. At this stage, the innermost layer of bark at the base of the tree and in the roots turns the color of butterscotch. If small pieces of this butterscotch-colored bark are placed in a closed jar for a few minutes, an odor of wintergreen can be detected.

There is no cure for infected trees and there are no research-proven control measures.

Rental Equipment Mfg. Co., of Englewood, Colorado, has changed its name to BlueBird International, according to Doug Zehrung, president.

"The name change was a natural result of our gradual increase in business activity in other countries over the past several years," Zehrung said. "And since we're now marketing BlueBird lawn combers in thirteen countries, with the strong probability that we'll be adding still more countries to our marketing area, it was both logical and desirable to make the change. Desirable because most people call us BlueBird anyway, and the shorter name should be easier to remember for the new young people entering our industry."

Meet John, Jim and W. J., new officers of the Sprinkler Irrigation Assoc. Officially it's John H. Stevens, president, Jim Pichon, vice president (pres.-elect) and W. J. Ogle, treasurer. Walter Anderson continues as executive secretary.