

# Threadgill named Irrigation Assn's Person of the Year

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Awards highlighted the recent four-day Irrigation Association Expo and Technical Conference here attended by 3,500 persons.

Dr. E. Dale Threadgill, professor and chairman of the Division of Geological and Agricultural Engineering, University of Georgia, received the IA's 1991 Person of the Year Award.

Phil Tropeano, president and founder of Larchmont Engineering and Irrigation Co. in Lexington, Mass., received the Industry

Achievements Award for contributions to the development of the irrigation industry and its products.

Len Ring, president of Ring Irrigation Engineering in Alberta, Canada, was given the industry's Crawford Reid Memorial Award for promoting the use of proper irrigation procedures and for work which has resulted in major achievements in irrigation outside the United States.

Westlands Water District received the Water and Energy

Conservation Award for promoting efficient irrigation management techniques, resulting in conservation of both water and energy.

The Westlands program, targeting growers in an area in the Western San Joaquin Valley of California, was developed by water management specialists Tracy Slavin and Gerald Robb.

Thomas Kimmell of Olson Irrigation Systems in Santee, Calif., was elected president, and William Koonz of Koonz Sprinkler

Supply in Springfield, N.J., president-elect.

Joe Goecke of Valmont Irrigation in Valley, Neb., was elected vice president; Jack Buzzard of Rain Bird International in Glendora, Calif., treasurer.

Robert C. Emmerich, IA immediate past president, noted that irrigation experts from industry, government and academia presented the latest findings of water management research and other topics of concern to the irrigation profession in 30 technical ses-

sions.

The Person of the Year award is given to people outside the irrigation industry — such as in government or education — who have made outstanding contributions to further the acceptance of good irrigation practices and procedures.

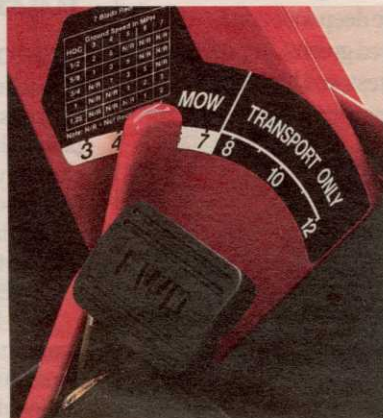
Threadgill has been involved extensively in research, education, extension work, government and industry task forces, trade and civic groups.

Tropeano's career spans 50 years of designing and engineering of irrigation products, many of which were firsts.

He began Larchmont Engineering in the late 1940s, as a distributor for major irrigation equipment manufacturers in the Northeast. His changes at Larchmont included establishment of a Good Dealer Organization, and expansion into design and construction of couplings and fittings.

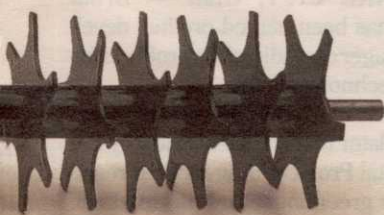
He also led the firm into the snow-making business and wastewater systems.

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## Holbrook named new president at Grace-Sierra Co.

MILPITAS, Calif. — Grace-Sierra Horticultural Products Co. has named Kenneth W. Holbrook Jr. as its new president.

Chairman of the Board Robert C. Walsh said Holbrook's "experience in total quality management, business strategy and management information systems will be a great asset to Grace-Sierra, a company with a mandate for fast growth."



Since 1978, Holbrook worked for Koch Materials Co., a division of Koch Industries in Wichita, Kan., and had been the division's president since 1980. During this time, he grew a regional company into a diversified worldwide corporation.

Prior to working at Koch Materials, Holbrook was employed by Exxon Chemical Co. in its United States, Far East, Latin American and worldwide operations, where he held sales, marketing and management positions.

Holbrook, a native of Arizona, earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Arizona and a graduate degree at the American Graduate School of International Management.

Grace-Sierra Horticultural Products Co. was formed in 1989 by the merger of W.R. Grace & Co. - Conn.'s horticultural products business and Sierra Chemical Co.